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Oklahoma RB Adrian Peterson

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VOL 11/2006

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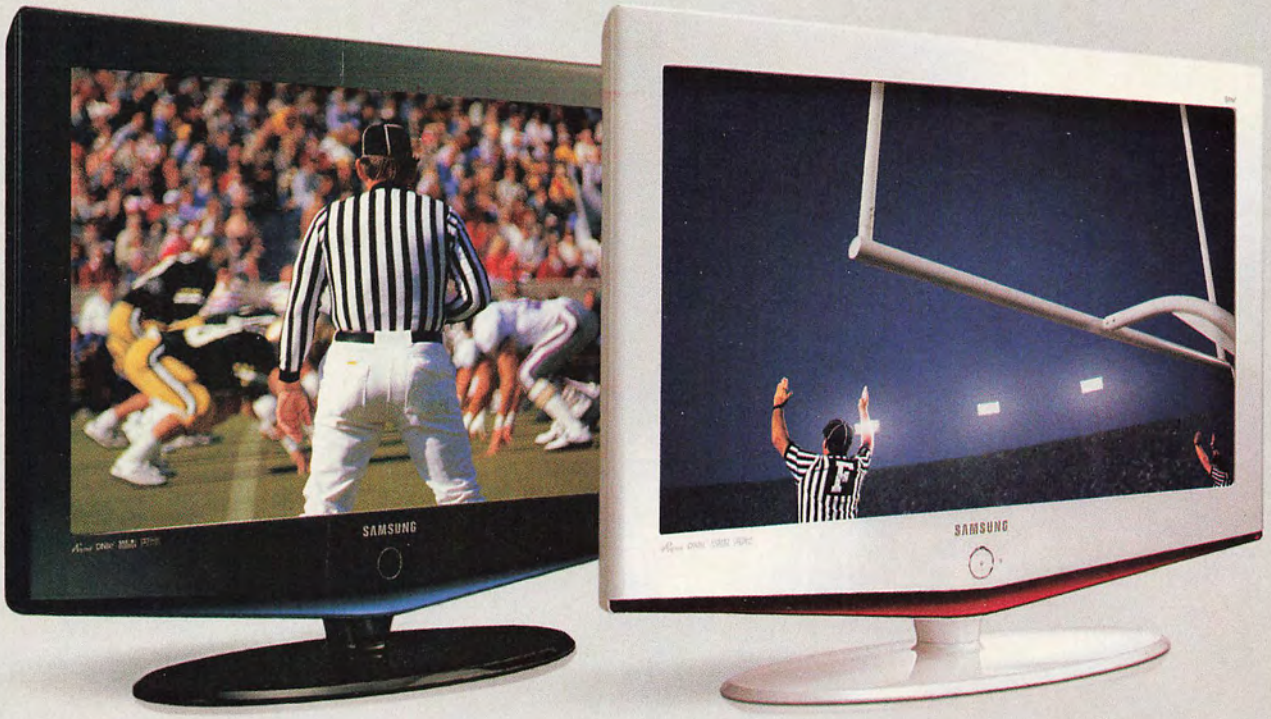

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCENES FROM SATURDAY

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Photos by Peter Brouillet

EDITOR'S LETTER

In your profession, it is inevitable that you will face the struggle of having to replace one of your highly valued staff members in your organization. Fortunately I haven't had to deal with that here at Athlon Sports in a number of years. But imagine having to do that every few years. That is the reality college coaches face in all sports. In college football, most players who contribute to a program at a high level do so for two to three years. Quarterbacks come and go. Receivers are running fade routes one year, then working out for pro scouts the next. We write about the changes every spring.

But this summer some very high-profile schools are auditioning replacements at the highest-profile position on their team — quarterback. Texas, USC and Penn State ended last season ranked 1-2-3, and now begin their quests in 2006 to be the best in the land with new signal-callers. Texas without Vince Young, USC without Matt Leinart and Penn State without Michael Robinson. Now that is three big pairs of shoes to fill.

See how these schools, as well as other top programs such as Alabama and Georgia, are coping with these changes in our story, Next in Line, on page 28. At least two of those three teams should be in the national championship hunt, so there will be little room for error for the youngsters.

One famous school aching for another national title seems to have most of the ingredients in place. The Fighting Irish return quarterback Brady Quinn, who is a leading Heisman Trophy candidate, and have one of the brightest offensive minds in college football on the sidelines. Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis endeared himself quickly to the Irish faithful, but is he the next Knute Rockne? We posed the question, and you can read the arguments evaluating Weis on page 42.

Of course, the question fans begin asking us in March is "Who's No. 1?" Is it Ohio State with Heisman candidates at quarterback (Troy Smith) and receiver (Ted Ginn Jr.)? What about Notre Dame with Weis, Quinn and Co.? Can USC possibly be back in the hunt without Leinart, Reggie Bush and LenDale White, among others? Texas? Florida? Gators coach Urban Meyer is known for amazing results in year two. West Virginia showed Georgia just what blazing speed could do as the Mountaineers dominated the Bulldogs through the first half of the Sugar Bowl last January. West Virginia returns two electrifying players in sophomores Pat White at quarterback and Steve Slaton at tailback.

All of these teams received ample support during our annual hunker-down-in-the-dungeon-for-72-hours-without-food-or-water predictions meetings recently. (Actually, there's plenty of food and beverages, and 72 hours is a stretch, but we play the martyr card whenever we can around the office.) But the team that stood above the rest was those little-talked-about (these days) Sooners from Oklahoma. I'll spare you the sales pitch here; you can read that on page 44. But the Sooners were pretty overwhelming last season when Heisman candidate Adrian Peterson was on the field. And the Red River Shootout may be the only serious threat on the schedule.

The first step to building a national title contender is recruiting. Judging from message boards and talk shows in January, and the media frenzy stirred by National Signing Day, the quality of recruiting classes can make or break coaches' careers. But do these "can't miss" prodigies always pan out? Our own Mitchell Light investigated the 2001 signing class based on Athlon's Top 50 signees that year. See how the studs of five years ago progressed (or regressed) on page 34. We think it will give you a different perspective of National Signing Day and prove that big-time recruits don't automatically become All-Americans. You can see how we project this year's crop of recruits on page 73. Our regional conference previews and team analyses begin on page 113.

On the back page, you can find the entire ranking of all 119 teams. For those of you who appreciate a little taste of coverage of every team outside this region, our National College Football edition offers a terrific overview of the season from a national perspective.

We'd love to hear how accurate you think our ranking is of all 119 teams. It's always fun to compare our readers' predictions of all the teams. Email us at editor@athlonsports.com.

Enjoy the season!

Charlie Miller

Charlie Miller, Editorial Director

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AMERICA'S PREMIER SPORTS ANNUALS

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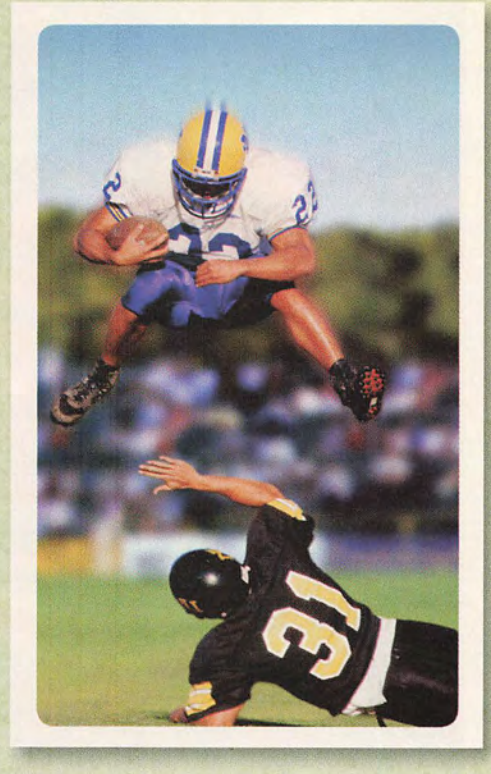

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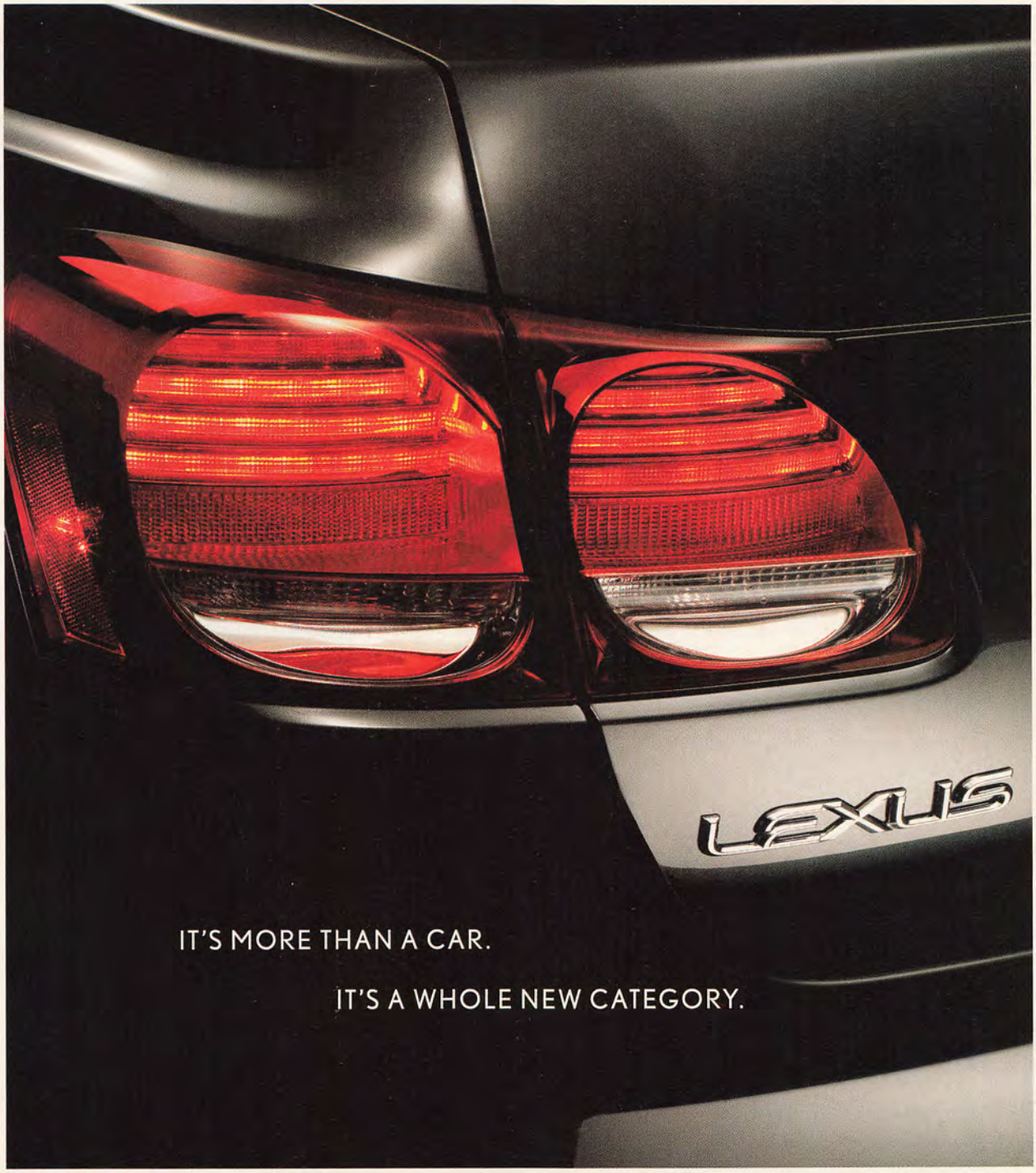

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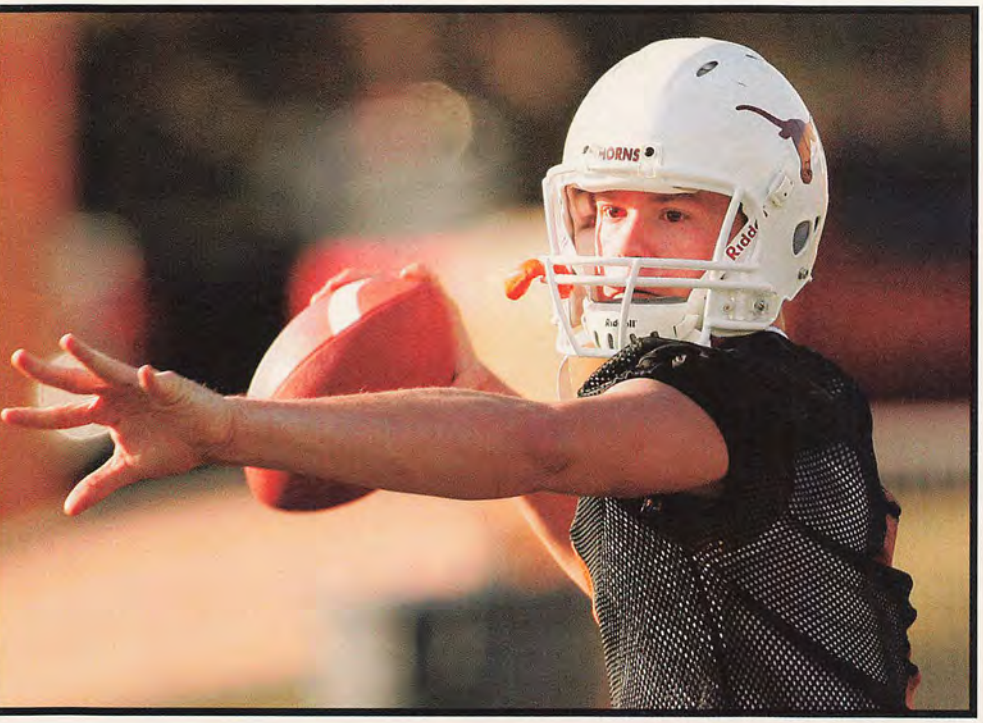

28 Next in Line

The greatest crop of college quarterbacks in recent memory has departed for the NFL. Their successors have some mighty big shoes to fill. Are they up to the task?

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Programs on the rise, coaches on the hot seat, key transfers, freshmen to watch — plus, a little love for the much-maligned bowls.

34 Top 50 Recruits of 2001
Need proof that recruiting is an inexact science? Check out Athlon Sports' top 50 recruits of 2001. Some have fared better than others.

42 Gridiron God or Mere Mortal?
Two opposing points of view concerning Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis.

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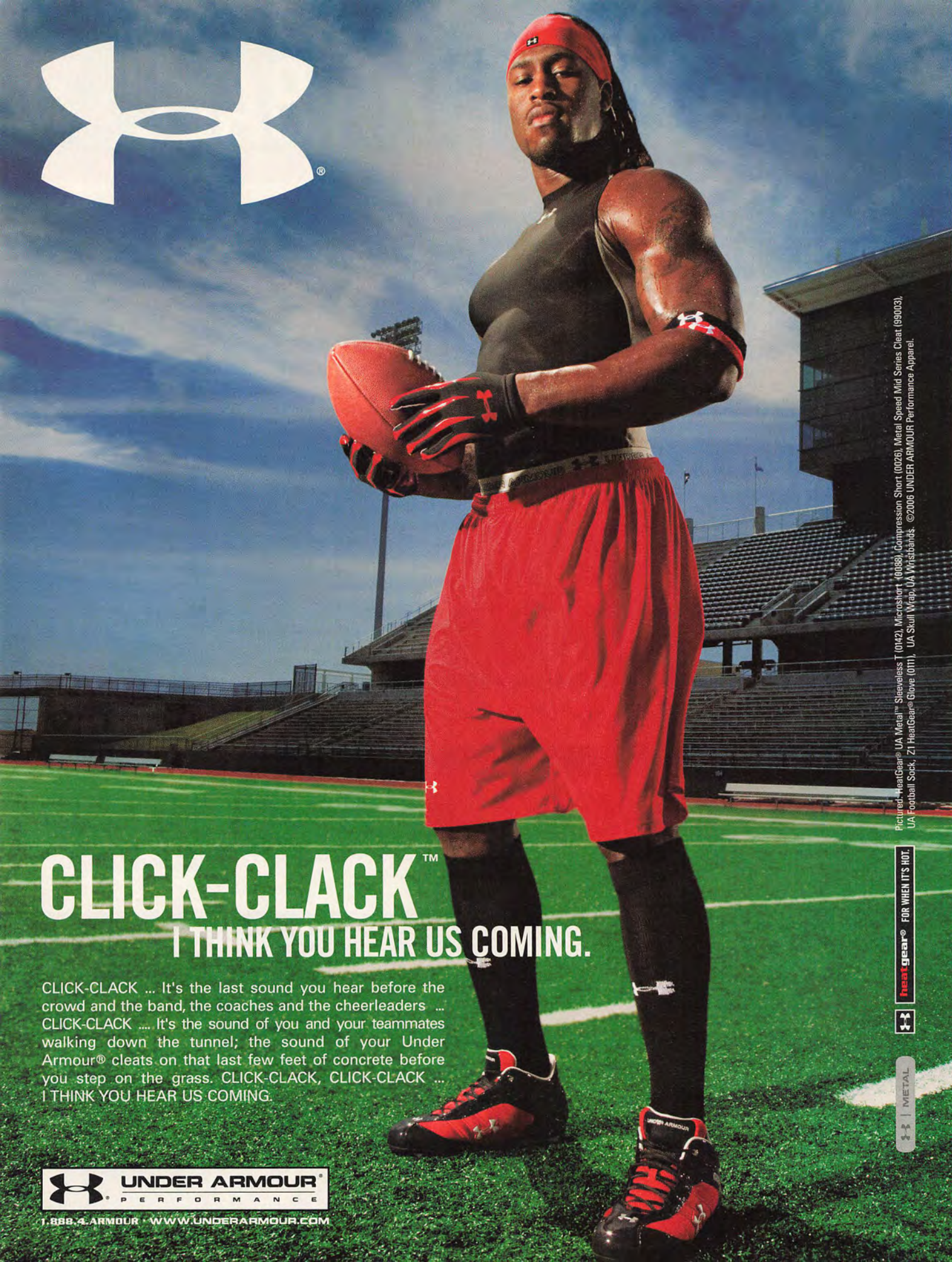
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Sooner or later, you know Oklahoma will return to the top of the college football world. We happen to think sooner means 2006. But will the pass-happy Irish, the talented Trojans, the Troy Smith-led Buckeyes or the darkhorse Mountaineers have a say? And what about the defending champs?

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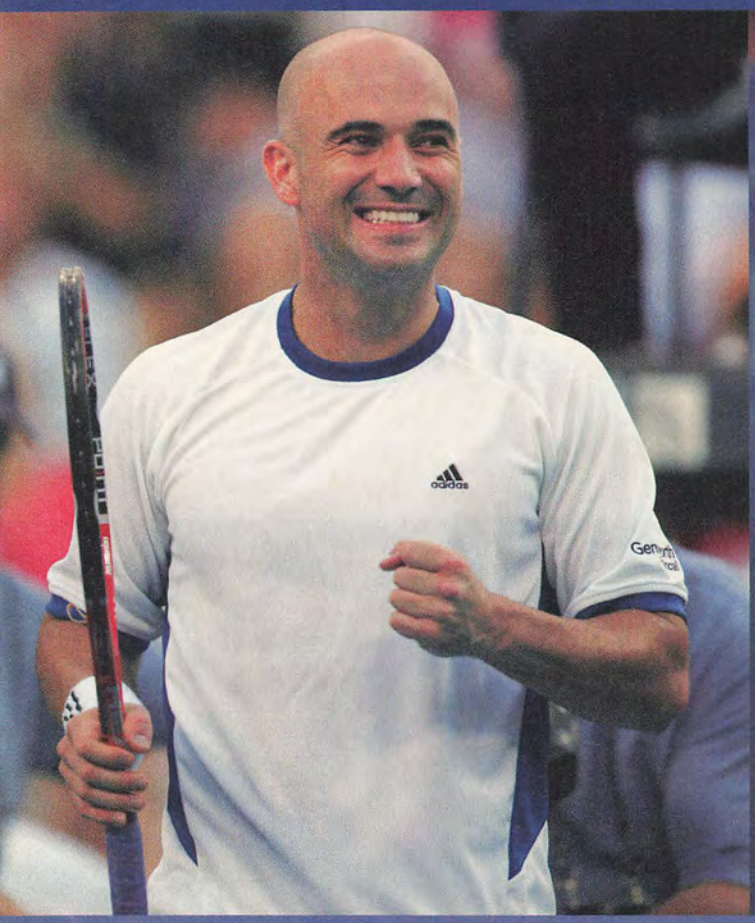

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Not all the action is on the field. Some of the best views are on the sidelines. We invite you to see what we mean.

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ATHLON SPORTS SIDELINE SPIRIT CONTEST

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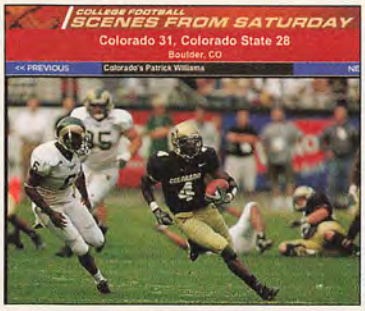

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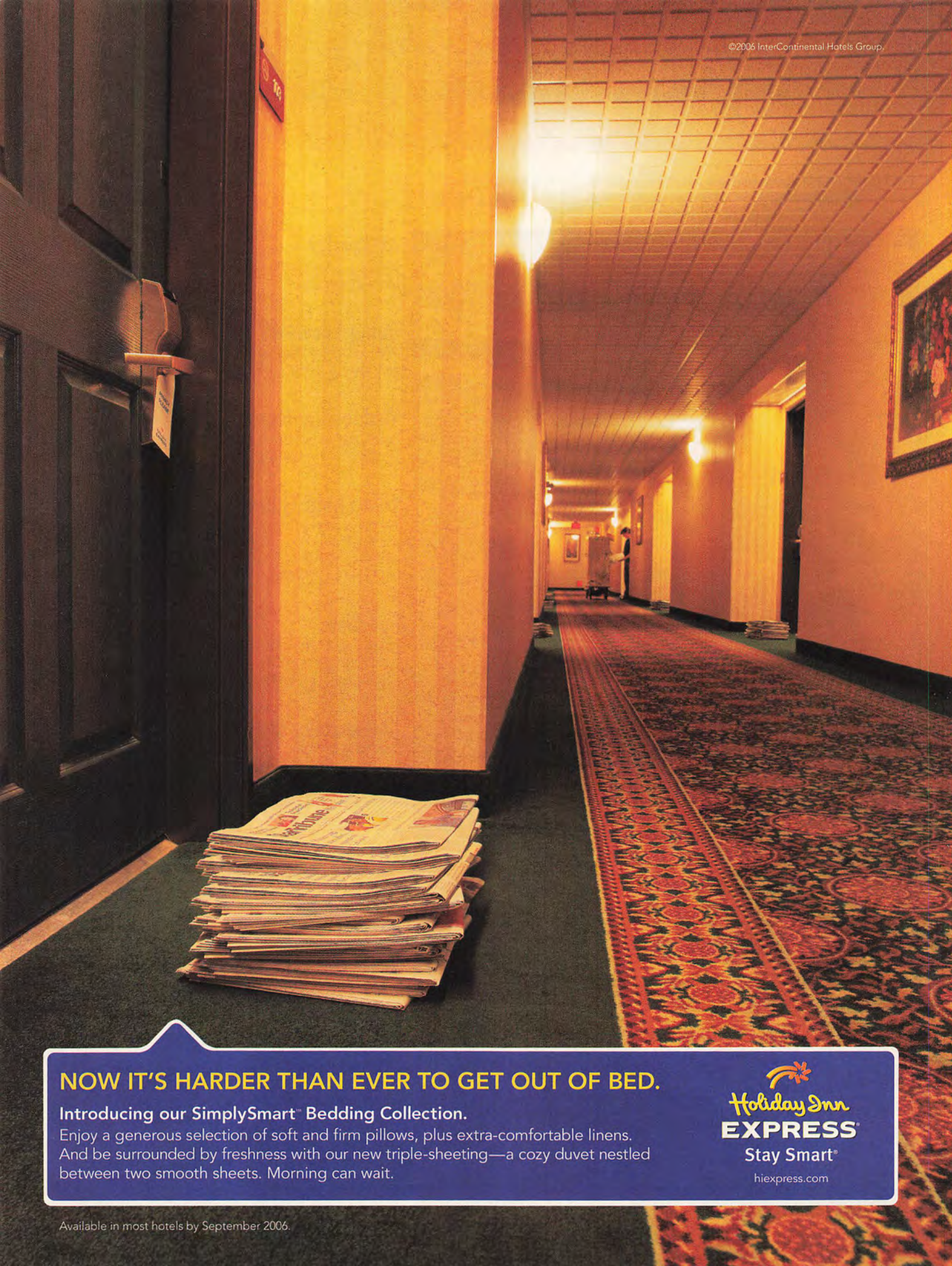
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extraPOINTS

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PROGRAMS on the RISE

WEST VIRGINIA

The Mountaineers haven't been this excited about football since Major Harris led them to the 1988 national championship game. Quarterback Pat White and running back Steve Slaton are talented enough to win the title this time around.

TCU

Coach Gary Patterson has quietly built the Horned Frogs into a powerhouse in five seasons. Last season, TCU upset Oklahoma, went undefeated in Mountain West play and won an outright league title for the first time since 1958.

NEVADA

Who is the only current Division I coach already enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame? The Wolf Pack's Chris Ault, who has won more than 70 percent of his games and directed 25 second-half comebacks.

ARIZONA STATE

If coach Dirk Koetter can find a defense to go with quarterback Sam Keller and tight end Zach Miller, he might have a sleeping giant in the desert. Only USC had a more potent offense in 2005.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Coach Jim Leavitt has the Bulls, coming off their first-ever bowl game, poised to become the third-best program in the realigned Big East. South Florida is doing it with stout defense: it ranked 17th in Division I in total defense and 14th in scoring defense.

PROGRAMS on the DECLINE

West Virginia: Ric Fogel; Syracuse: John Grieshop

SYRACUSE

Former NFL defensive coordinator Greg Robinson had better find an offense if he is going to survive more than two seasons in college. The Orange ranked 115th in Division I-A in pass efficiency and averaged less than two touchdowns during last season's 1–10 debacle.

WASHINGTON

Tyrone Willingham is a better coach than most Notre Dame fans are willing to admit, but a 2–9 record in 2005 makes Huskies fans wonder about his abilities.

AIR FORCE

Fisher DeBerry's off-the-cuff comments have caused most of his problems in Colorado Springs, but an 18–23 record since a 6–0 start in 2002 is unsightly as well. The Falcons lost to Navy and Army last year and haven't won the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy since 2002.

COLORADO STATE

Sonny Lubick's long and successful tenure with the Rams might be nearing its end. Colorado State has won only 17 games the past three seasons combined, including an 0–3 mark vs. rival Colorado. And that was before Dan Hawkins got to Boulder.

NORTH TEXAS

The Mean Green garnered a lot of attention for having two NCAA rushing leaders, Patrick Cobbs and Jamario Thomas, but they limped to a 2–9 record in 2005 after winning four consecutive Sun Belt Conference championships. There wasn't anything mean about North Texas' young defense last season, as it allowed 31.5 points per game. The Mean Green got taken to the woodshed twice: 54–7 at Kansas State and 56–3 at LSU.

eXtraPOINTS

Ranking the Conferences

SEC 1
LSU, Florida, Auburn and Georgia might all be in the national championship race. Alabama and Arkansas might be surprises.

BIG 12 2
Defending national champion Texas won't fall very far, even without quarterback Vince Young, and Oklahoma will bounce back in a big way with Adrian Peterson still running the football. Nebraska might be poised to make major steps in Bill Callahan's third season.

BIG TEN 3
Despite its heavy personnel losses on defense, Ohio State is the best team in the league, but the Buckeyes have to play at Texas and Iowa. The Hawkeyes might be a surprise, with Penn State taking a step back after its remarkable 2005 season. Michigan is always a factor, but will the Wolverines flop again?

ACC 4
Florida State and Miami could both rebound if they find offensive consistency. Clemson could have its best team in years. And don't count out Virginia Tech, but the Hokies must find a quarterback to replace Marcus Vick.

PAC-10 5
USC will still be a powerhouse even without Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush and LenDale White. But Arizona State, California and Oregon are closing the gap.

BIG EAST 6
The new league was supposed to be a one-pony race, but West Virginia quickly supplanted Louisville as the league's BCS contender. Rutgers and South Florida are serious up-and-comers.

MOUNTAIN WEST 7
More than half the league seems to be in a rebuilding mode, and traditional frontrunners Air Force, BYU and Colorado State are struggling.

CONFERENCE USA 8
A home improvement store would make a nice league sponsor after major rebuilding jobs at UCF, UTEP, SMU, Houston and Tulsa.

WESTERN ATHLETIC 9
League lost one of its premier coaches when Dan Hawkins left Boise State for Colorado. Is Fresno State's Pat Hill next to leave?

MID-AMERICAN 10
Akron, the league champion, was shut out by Army and lost at Ball State last season.

SUN BELT 11
North Texas was a big-time flop last season, going from conference champion in 2004 to last place in 2005.

COACHES on the HOT SEAT

Dennis Franchione, TEXAS A&M
Franchione might have been better off staying at Alabama. He is 16–19 with two losing seasons in three years — as many as the Aggies had in the previous 30 years — and has a hat trick of embarrassments: 77–0 to Oklahoma in 2003, 35–34 to Baylor in 2004 and 56–17 to Texas Tech in 2005. Defensive coordinator Carl Torbush was fired after the Aggies ranked last in Division I–A in pass defense last season.

Larry Coker, MIAMI
Coker shook up his coaching staff after losing three games for the second season in a row, and the Hurricanes' 40–3 loss to LSU in the Peach Bowl once seemed unimaginable. With former Miami coach Butch Davis still unemployed, athletics director Paul Dee might not have a lot of patience left for Coker.

Lloyd Carr, MICHIGAN
The Wolverines have lost three games or more in seven of the last eight seasons, and the 7–5 mark in 2005 was the worst. Michigan was a preseason top 10 team but lost to Notre Dame and Minnesota at home and then fell to rebuilding Nebraska in the, ahem, Alamo Bowl. Carr's 1–4 record vs. Ohio State's Jim Tressel, including a 25–21 loss last season in which the Wolverines blew a 21–12 lead with less than eight minutes to go, makes the 1997 national championship seem like a distant memory.

Phillip Fulmer, TENNESSEE
The Volunteers' national championship hopes in 2005 turned into a 5–6 nightmare, their worst record since 1988. All of the pieces for improvement seem to be in place, except for a confident quarterback, but bringing back offensive coordinator David Cutcliffe could go a long way toward correcting things. But if the Vols' fortunes do turn around, who gets the credit? Fulmer or Cutcliffe?

Houston Nutt, ARKANSAS
The Hogs have won only nine of their last 22 games and haven't been a factor in the SEC title race since Georgia blasted them in the 2002 SEC championship game. The Razorbacks were very young last season, and the addition of highly regarded quarterback Mitch Mustain only increases the pressure on Nutt.

HOT ASSISTANT COACHES

Gene Chizik, TEXAS
How is this for a personal winning streak? The Longhorns' defensive coordinator has won the last 28 games he has coached: Auburn won its last 15 games when he was there and Texas went 13–0 in winning the national title in 2005.

Jeff Casteel, WEST VIRGINIA
The Mountaineers' defensive coordinator doesn't receive as much recognition as coach Rich Rodriguez gets for his high-powered offense, but Casteel is becoming a hot commodity. His 3–3 stack defense is getting better and better, and he is West Virginia's best recruiter.

Andy Ludwig, UTAH
Ludwig helped the Utes quickly forget about former coach Urban Meyer and quarterback Alex Smith, as they averaged 30 points and 473 yards offense in his first season as offensive coordinator. And Ludwig did it while breaking in new quarterback Brian Johnson.

Al Borges, AUBURN
The Tigers keep plugging in new quarterbacks and running backs and keep on winning. He resurrected Jason Campbell's career in 2004 and did the same thing for Brandon Cox last season.

Michael Haywood, NOTRE DAME
The Fighting Irish offensive coordinator is working under a bright offensive mind and already had established himself as a top recruiter at LSU and Texas.

Franchione: Layne Murdoch

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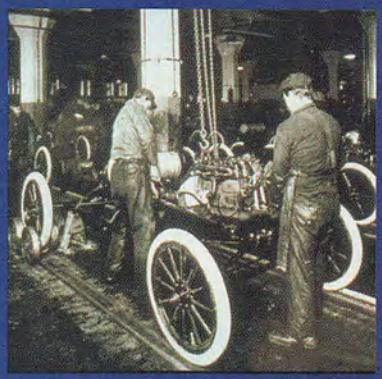

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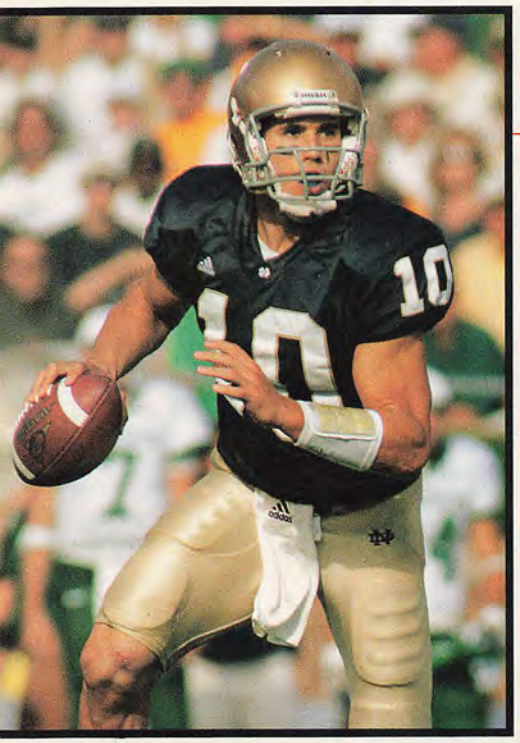
extraPOINTS

HEISMAN CONTENDERS: THE A-LIST



brady QUINN
NOTRE DAME
The senior plays the most high-profile position for the sport's most high-profile team. Having college football's best offensive mind calling plays will help, too.

adrian PETERSON
OKLAHOMA
A bum ankle wasn't the only thing slowing Peterson down in 2005. Sooners quarterback Rhett Bomar must play better for Peterson to truly be effective.

pat WHITE
WEST VIRGINIA
The word in Morgantown is that the sophomore greatly improved his passing during the offseason.

dwayne JARRETT
SOUTHERN CAL
With Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush and LenDale White leaving for the NFL, Jarrett will be the focal point of the Trojans' offense.

troy SMITH
OHIO STATE
Dual-threat quarterback trying to do what Vince Young did last season: win a national championship.

HEISMAN CONTENDERS: THE B-LIST

Marshawn Lynch, California Bears Coach Jeff Tedford has earned a reputation for producing NFL-caliber quarterbacks, but this running back might be his best product.

Calvin Johnson, Georgia Tech The future NFL star is the best wide receiver in college football, but the Yellow Jackets might not win enough games for him to be properly recognized.

Steve Slaton, West Virginia If the Mountaineers beat Louisville and get to the BCS title game, Slaton and White will be serious Heisman Trophy candidates.

Kenny Irons, Auburn Irons is as talented as former Tiger runners Carnell "Cadillac" Williams and Ronnie Brown, and he doesn't have to share the football, either.

Ted Ginn, Ohio State With Santonio Holmes gone, Ginn won't have to share the football or the spotlight any longer.

Others to Watch:
Lorenzo Booker, RB, Florida State
Kyle Wright, QB, Miami
Sidney Rice, WR, South Carolina
Chad Henne, QB, Michigan
Chris Leak, QB, Florida
Tyrell Sutton, RB, Northwestern
Garrett Wolfe, RB, Northern Illinois
Brian Brohm, QB, Louisville
Michael Bush, RB, Louisville

UNDER THE RADAR PLAYERS

Dan Bazuin, Central Michigan The senior defensive end led the country with 26.5 tackles for a loss and was second with 16 sacks in 2005. He had two sacks against both Indiana and Penn State and three sacks in two other games.

Colt Brennan, Hawaii The former Colorado quarterback has been called a mobile version of Timmy Chang. His first-year numbers backed up the lofty comparison as he completed 68 percent of his passes for 4,301 yards and 35 touchdowns.

Vincent Marshall, Houston Marshall came to Houston on a track scholarship but is quarterback Kevin Kolb's favorite target with 71 catches for 939 yards and six touchdowns in 2005.

Eli Nichols, Duke The senior defensive end is one of the best players on one of college football's worst teams, with 48 tackles, eight tackles for a loss and three sacks a year ago.

Micah Andrews, Wake Forest The son of former Atlanta Falcons star William Andrews ran for 254 yards in the opener against Vanderbilt last season. He averaged a whopping 5.7 yards per carry last season and won't have to share carries with ACC Player of the Year Chris Barclay this season.

Quinn: Peter Brouillet; Nichols: Bruce Schwartzman

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eXtraPOINTS

FIVE UNDERRATED COACHES

Tom O'Brien, BOSTON COLLEGE

The former Marine's teams are always sound and disciplined — and pretty darn good, too. The Eagles have won at least seven games and a bowl game in each of the last six seasons.

Jim Grobe, WAKE FOREST

It would be interesting to see how Grobe's misdirection offense would do at a program with more depth and more talented players. This might be the season the Demon Deacons finally bear the fruits of his superior knowledge.

Dan McCarney, IOWA STATE

McCarney's great work has largely gone unnoticed because of Kirk Ferentz's success at Iowa. But McCarney's rebuilding job — he's led the Cyclones to a bowl game in five of the last six seasons — rivals what Bill Snyder did at Kansas State.

Randy Walker, NORTHWESTERN

Under Walker's direction, the Wildcats have played in three bowl games in seven seasons — as many as they had in the previous half-century. Walker has beaten every Big Ten Conference opponent at least once and seems ready to jump to a more high-profile position.

Guy Morriss, BAYLOR

It is a good thing (for Baylor) that Kentucky didn't keep Morriss, who is close to transforming Baylor from a laughingstock to a more than competitive program. The Bears beat Texas A&M in 2004 and lost to the Aggies in overtime last season. Baylor lost to Oklahoma in double overtime and finished 5–6 in 2005.

FIVE CHANGES for 2006

« **Fifth BCS game** The Bowl Championship Series adds a fifth game, which will be played before the Fiesta Bowl (the national championship game) in Tempe, Ariz. The champions of the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC still will receive automatic BCS berths. But beginning this season, one champion from the other leagues (Conference USA, MAC, Mountain West, Sun Belt or WAC) gets an automatic spot if it is ranked among the top 12 teams in the final BCS standings, or is ranked among the top 16 teams in the final BCS standings and ranked higher than one of the BCS conference champions. In other words, TCU would have played in a lucrative BCS bowl game last season, instead of the third-tier EV1.net Houston Bowl. To be eligible for an at-large berth, a team must be in the top 14 of the final BCS standings.

« **Standard instant replay** Instant replay is no longer an experiment in college football after it was approved by the NCAA rules committee. The system was a hit in its first season in the Big Ten in 2004 and used in most Division I-A conferences last season. The only real complaint about instant replay was it took too long and coaches had no input. So the NCAA gave coaches the right to call timeout to instigate a review and, if the play is overturned, the team doesn't lose the timeout. But if the play isn't overturned, the coaches can't challenge another play in the game and lose the timeout.

« **Fox Sports joins the fray** Fox Sports takes over broadcasts of the BCS games, and here's hoping Tim McCarver isn't involved. The television network, which hasn't had its hand in college football while focusing primarily on Major League Baseball and the NFL, apparently wants to become a real player. It's challenging ESPN for the rights to broadcast Big Ten games, beginning in 2007.

« **A 12th regular season game** The NCAA permanently added a 12th regular season game this season, while the sport's governing body still decried a playoff system because it would extend the season too much and inhibit players' ability to study. Then again, an extra regular-season game against a Division I-AA foe and meaningless conference championship games seem like better ideas.

« **Shorter games** The NCAA has taken steps to ensure that games are a little shorter. Among the rules changes that go in effect this season: halftime will now last 15 minutes instead of 20; the clock will start on an actual kickoff instead of when the receiving team touches the ball; and the clock will start when the ball is ready for play on a possession change. Also, the length of the kicking tee will be shortened to one inch to curtail the number of touchbacks.

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Mad Foosball Before the Party in Philly
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eXtraPOINTS

FIVE KEY TRANSFERS

LOREN HOWARD
Northwestern to Arizona State

The explosive defensive end started three years for the Wildcats, but then transferred home to the desert after injuring his knee. The senior should give a big boost to a defense that ranked last in the Pac-10 with 22 sacks in 2005, and will get help from overpowering defensive tackle Michael Marquardt, a transfer from BYU, and Florida transfer Tranell Morant.

BENJARVUS GREEN-ELLIS
Indiana to Ole Miss

The Rebels ranked 116th in the country in rushing last season and desperately need a big-time runner. Green-Ellis, a 211-pound junior, might provide that after running for 794 yards behind a bad Indiana offensive line in 2004.

ROCKY HINDS
USC to UNLV

Buried on the depth chart behind Trojans star Matt Leinart and heir apparent John David Booty, Hinds transferred to Las Vegas and sat out last season. He should win the job in the fall, and former Trojans cornerback Eric Wright will help shore up a porous secondary.

AKIEEM JOLLA
Miami to New Mexico State

The can't-miss prospect who missed with the Hurricanes is seeking new life in Hal Mumme's pass-happy offense. Because the New Orleans wide receiver's family was displaced by Hurricane Katrina, the NCAA waived the one-year penalty for transferring, and he's eligible immediately.

COURTNEY TENNIAL
Oklahoma to Tulsa

Tennial ran for more yards as a high school senior than any other player in Oklahoma history. Unfortunately, he signed with the Sooners the same time as Adrian Peterson and was quickly buried on the depth chart. He and Tarrion Adams give the Golden Hurricane a great one-two punch.

STEPPING DOWN

Players transfering from I-A to I-AA

Jamal Pittman
Ole Miss to Jackson State

The former prep All-American never got on track at Ole Miss because of off-field problems, but he might provide Jackson State the best backfield in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, along with senior David Kennebrew. Former Tennessee Vol linebacker Daniel Brooks is the Tigers' best player on defense.

Antonio Heffner
South Carolina to Tennessee State

Heffner, a fleet-footed quarterback with limited passing skills, never found a place in Steve Spurrier's offense and lost the starting quarterback job to Blake Mitchell. Heffner will have at least one speedy target to throw to in Nashville: senior Mike Mason, a transfer from North Carolina.

Matt Gutierrez
Michigan to Idaho State

Gutierrez was named the Wolverines' starter before the 2004 season but hurt his shoulder and never won the job back from Chad Henne. He will fit in very well in the Bengals' high-octane passing game.

Brandon Keith
Oklahoma to Northern Iowa

The mammoth offensive lineman lasted less than a season with the Sooners after transferring from junior college, but he and Iowa State transfer Jason Fiacco give the Division I-AA national runners-up some bulk up front.

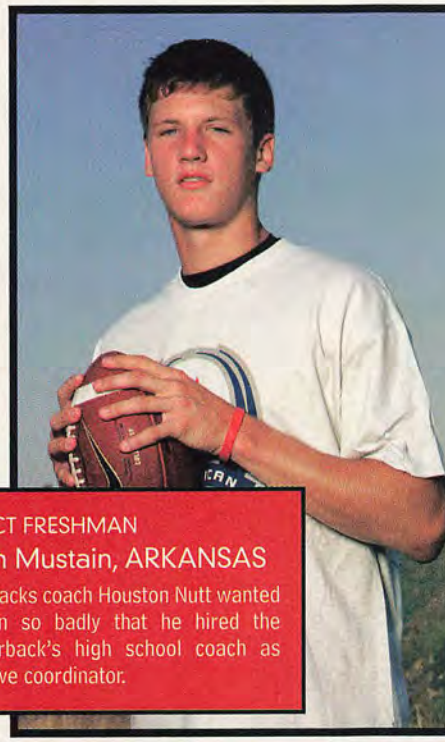
Josh Swogger
Washington State to Montana

The senior started six games at quarterback for the Cougars in 2004, but then injured his foot and never got his job back from Alex Brink. Swogger will start for the perennial I-AA playoff contenders.

FIVE FRESHMEN to WATCH

Matthew Stafford, GEORGIA

The big Texan might not start the opener, but if Stafford is as good as Georgia's coaches think he will be, he will break all the Bulldogs' passing records.



IMPACT FRESHMAN
Mitch Mustain, ARKANSAS
Razorbacks coach Houston Nutt wanted Mustain so badly that he hired the quarterback's high school coach as offensive coordinator.

Tim Tebow, FLORIDA

The highly regarded quarterback will spend one season behind Chris Leak, but he is the player coach Urban Meyer wants running his spread offense.

Percy Harvin, FLORIDA

Meyer likes to have lots of receivers in his offense, and Harvin was the most highly regarded wideout in the country.

Chris Wells, OHIO STATE

Wells will have a tough time beating out Antonio Pittman, who has at least one more season with the Buckeyes, but Wells is as athletically gifted as any tailback Jim Tressel has had.

Green-Ellis: Bruce Newman; Mustain: Icon SMI

BOWLS CLAIM SUPREMACY

A PLAYOFF AIN'T HAPPENING, SO IT'S TIME TO SHOW THE BOWLS SOME LOVE

by Zack McMillin

It happened in Detroit, of all places, a town more known for its riotous professional championship celebrations than anything to do with college football. It happened at Ford Field, an oasis of revenue streams but not exactly a hallowed home of college football glory.

It happened while watching Akron and Memphis, not exactly college football royalty, play in the 2005 Motor City Bowl.

That's when I stopped resisting. That's when I stopped hating. That's when I decided to stop chasing that windmill known as a big-time college football playoff and embrace the beauty of the bowls, flaws and all.

Sometime between the time Akron fans, clad in their 'Fear the Roo' t-shirts, streamed into Ford Field by the thousands and the postgame celebration by Tiger fans who had traveled the day after Christmas to watch DeAngelo Williams' last run, it hit me.

What's so bad about the bowls, anyway?

There remain blemishes to college football's postseason, but as that great four-horseman backfield known as Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young once advised, sometimes it's better just to love the one you're with.

Can't Get Much Better

If ever there were a year to rekindle true love with the bowls, it was 2005.

The USC-Texas title game deserved all the pre- and post-game hyperbole, and you need not like the BCS to appreciate that this game would not have happened without it.

What some consider the greatest college football game ever played was merely the appropriate conclusion to a wondrous bowl season.

There was the triple-overtime thriller the night before between Penn State and Florida State and their two living legend coaches.

The other two BCS games, if not classics, were treats nonetheless.

West Virginia took a 28-zip lead over Georgia, at the Georgia Dome, before hanging on for a 38–35 Sugar Bowl win, and Ohio State's V-necked Jim Tressel so thoroughly outcoached nonecked Charlie Weis, you'd have sworn Bob Davie had escaped the broadcast booth.

Pick a day, and there was either great drama or great football. At the Cotton, Alabama forced Texas Tech into smashmouth and then converted the ugliest game-winning kick in the history of football.

On New Year's Eve, Conference USA champ Tulsa rallied for two late touchdowns to beat Fresno State in a 55-point Liberty Bowl.

On Dec. 30, there were three great ones – UCLA beating Northwestern 50–39 in a wacky Sun Bowl, Brad Smith rallying Missouri from 28–7 down in the Independence to beat South Carolina and Virginia beating Minnesota on a last-minute field goal at the Music City.

One game after another stayed in dramatic doubt until the end — from Boise State and Boston College in the Humanitarian to titans Michigan and Nebraska, in down years for both programs, lighting up the Alamo Bowl.

And, yes, there was Memphis-Akron and 38–31 and DeAngelo Williams breaking career rushing records once held by guys named Archie Griffin and Tony Dorsett.

What's so bad about a system that gives us a postseason like that?

Not Gonna Happen

Is the idea of a college football playoff seductive? Sure. But repeat after me — it is never, ever, never, never, ever going to happen. Never.

Are there ways to improve the bowls? Sure. Is the BCS perfect? No, and it gets tweaked every year. To pine for a playoff because of BCS blemishes is like that smart, OK-looking guy you knew who was determined to date an intellectual supermodel with a dazzling sense of humor. Wasn't going to happen.

And neither is a college football playoff.

Less Steak, More Sizzle

Stick with the bowls because they give us a better, richer postseason. Stick with the bowls because they give more teams a shot at ending the season with something to celebrate. Stick with the bowls because, unlike basketball, college football never gives its big trophy to an inferior team that happened to get really hot and really lucky for three weeks.

However, it's time to market them better. That's a big reason why college basketball's NCAA Tournament is so beloved while the bowls, at least to listen to talk radio, are so beloathed.

Suggestion No. 1: Make New Year's Day meaningful again by putting all the BCS bowls save the championship game back to Jan. 1. Promote the heck out of New Year's Day as an orgy of college football and hype the championship game that entire day.

Suggestion No. 2: Give official structure to fans' informal tribal leanings by pumping up conference vs. conference. Keep a rolling tally. Encourage ESPN, Yahoo!, etc. to fan partisan league flames.

Suggestion No. 3: The sanctimonious power brokers will never allow this, but let's be real and confront the real reason for the NCAA Tournament's status as national obsession — those darned brackets. The bowl season could never reach the NCAA Tournament's reach as America's gambling pastime, but it couldn't hurt to start promoting office bowl pools. Get Yahoo! and EPSN to push them — it's sure to generate more interest than some schmoe trying to boot a 35-yard field goal for a million bucks.

Suggestion No. 4: Move the Heisman Trophy vote to AFTER the championship game. Is there any doubt Vince Young had the best college football season in 2005? He should have been rewarded. Waiting a month to award the Heisman would only enhance the bowl season.

Final suggestion: Encourage the NFL to collectively-bargain rules that prevent the best players from entering the League prematurely. Oh, wait. It has that, already.

Yet another reason to love the bowls.

John Grieshop

eXtraPOINTS

RANKING THE NEW COACHES OF 2005

DIVISION I-A FOOTBALL SAW 23 COACHING CHANGES PRIOR TO THE 2005 SEASON, AND WE'VE RANKED EACH COACH'S JOB PERFORMANCE, FROM BEST TO WORST

1. Charlie Weis, Notre Dame
Before: 6–6 After: 9–3
The swagger is back in South Bend thanks to Weis and his top-notch staff. With basically the same personnel, the Irish improved their total offense output from 345.5 yards per game in 2004 to 477.3 last season and their scoring from 24.1 points per game to 36.7.

2. Bill Cubit, Western Michigan
Before: 1–10 (0–8) After: 7–4 (5–3)
Under Cubit, a former offensive coordinator at Western Michigan, the Broncos made a five-game leap in the Mid-America Conference.

3. Steve Spurrier, South Carolina
Before: 6–5 (4–4) After: 7–5 (5–3)
The Gamecocks exceeded all expectations in Spurrier's return to the SEC. The Gamecocks won five games — tied for the most in their 14 years in the league — and knocked off both Florida and Tennessee along the way.

4. Les Miles, LSU
Before: 9–3 (6–2) After: 11–2 (7–1)
Katrina threw LSU an early season curve ball, but Miles kept his team focused and guided the Tigers to an SEC West title.

5. Skip Holtz, East Carolina
Before: 2–9 (2–6) After: 5–6 (4–4)
After winning only three games in the two-year John Thompson era, East Carolina is relevant again in Conference USA. The Pirates' offense jumped 58 spots in the national rankings (from 105th to 47th), while the defense improved from 111th to 79th.

6. Urban Meyer, Florida
Before: 7–5 (4–4) After: 9–3 (5–3)
It's hard to call a season that featured wins over Florida State, Tennessee and Georgia a disappointment, but the SEC record was very Zook-like. The offense regressed, dropping from 22nd in the nation in '04 to 61st last year.

7. Walt Harris, Stanford
Before: 4–7 (2–6) After 5–6 (4–4)
There was a disturbing loss to UC Davis and a 27–3 loss at home in the Big Game, but Harris somehow squeezed four Pac-10 wins out a team that ranked 99th in the nation in total offense and 105th in total defense.

8. Bronco Mendenhall, BYU
Before: 5–6 (4–3) After: 6–6 (5–3)
The Cougars won only six games, but they tied for second in the Mountain West and made tremendous improvement offensively.

9. Frank Solich, Ohio
Before: 4–7 (2–6) After: 4–7 (3–5)
Solich picked up a signature win in his first home game, knocking off Pittsburgh 16–10 in overtime on national television. That one victory re-energized the program.

10. Terry Hoeppner, Indiana
Before: 3–8 (1–7) After: 4–7 (1–7)
The Hoosiers made only modest gains, but the charismatic Hoeppner has IU fans thinking football once again. Attendance was up from 28,377 per game in 2004 to 39,536 last fall.

11. Shane Montgomery, Miami (Ohio)
Before: 8–5 (7–1) After: 7–4 (5–3)
The RedHawks' record slipped a bit, but they still tied for the MAC East title and featured the league's top passing offense. Two home losses in MAC play were troubling.

12. Kyle Whittingham, Utah
Before: 12–0 (7–0) After 7–5 (4–4)
The Utes lost five more games than in '04 — but were without their quarterback, top rusher and top receivers from the '04 Fiesta Bowl team.

13. Brent Guy, Utah State
Before: 3–8 (2–5 Sun Belt) After: 3–8 (2–6 WAC)
There were some bright spots — two conference wins — but the Aggies' first tour through the WAC was rather uneventful.

14. Mark Snyder, Marshall
Before: 6–6 (6–2 MAC) After: 4–7 (3–5 C-USA)
Marshall's string of 21 seasons without a losing record ended. The step up to Conference USA resulted in a tougher schedule, but losing three in a row to close the season will not sit well.

15. Dick Tomey, San Jose State
Before: 2–9 (1–7) After: 3–8 (2–6)
San Jose State was still one of the worst Division I-A teams in the nation, but the Spartans were far more competitive.

16. Dave Wannstedt, Pittsburgh
Before: 8–4 (4–2) After: 5–6 (4–3)
The first month of the Wannstedt era was a debacle, but the Panthers battled back from a 1–4 start, won four of their last six and ended the year with a winning Big East record.

17. Mike Sanford, UNLV
Before: 2–9 (1–6) After: 2–9 (1–7)
Sanford, the former offensive coordinator at Utah, failed to jumpstart the Rebels' attack. UNLV won two games by a combined six points and regressed on both sides of the ball.

18. Tyrone Willingham, Washington
Before: 1–10 (0–8) After 2–9 (1–7)
Yes, the Huskies made progress, but they were still alarmingly uncompetitive at times. Four Pac-10 losses came by 24 points or more.

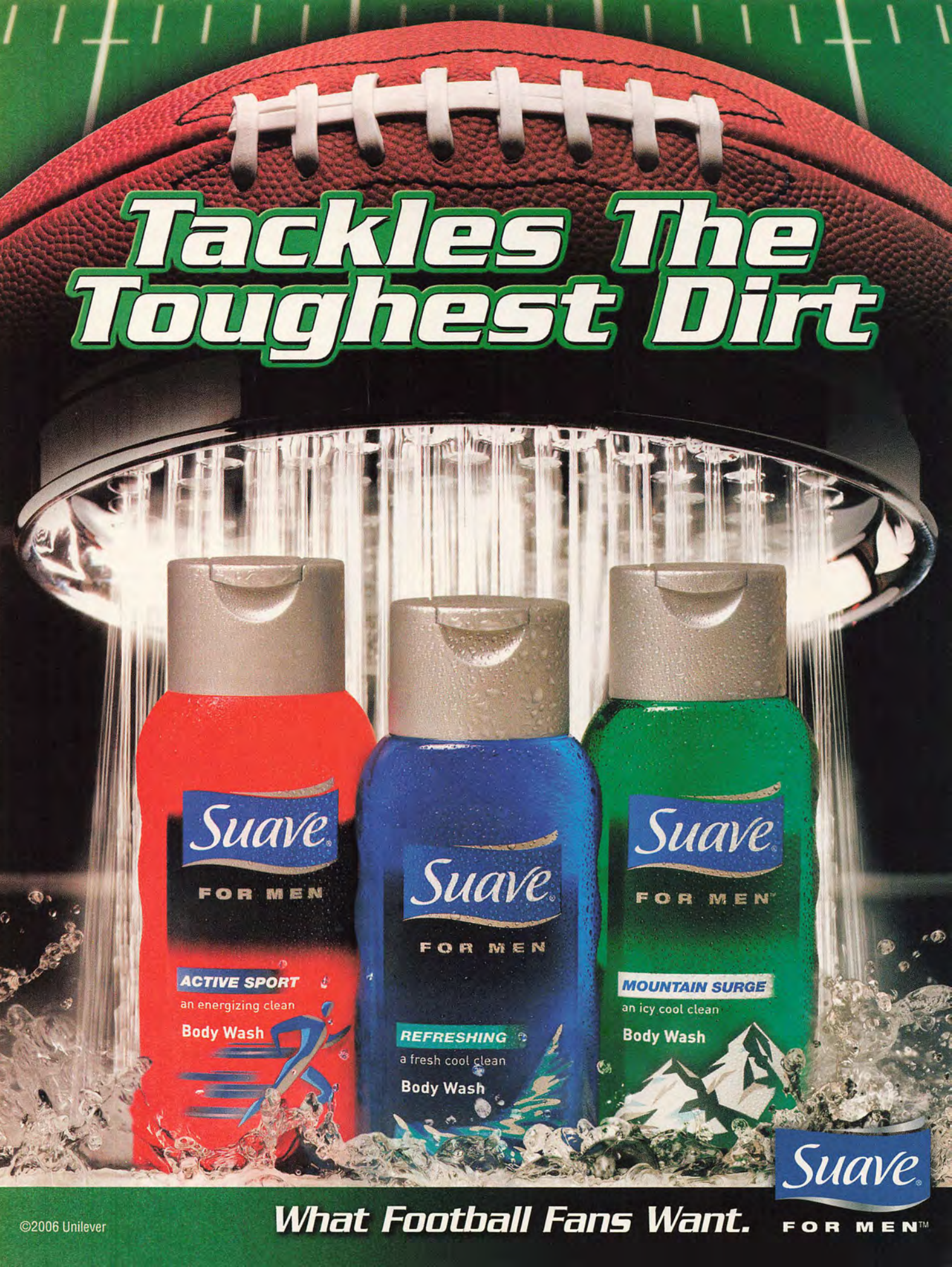
19. Ron Zook, Illinois
Before: 3–8 (1–7) After: 2–9 (0–8)
It wasn't easy, but Illinois took a step backward. The Illini lost their eight league games by an average of 32.1 points per game.

20. Ed Orgeron, Ole Miss
Before: 4–7 (3–5) After: 3–8 (1–7)
Orgeron brought plenty of excitement, but also plenty of losses. He signed a stellar recruiting class, and that has the faithful excited.

21. Mike Gundy, Oklahoma State
Before: 7–5 (4–4) After: 4–7 (1–7)
After fighting their way up the Big 12 food chain under Les Miles, the Cowboys took a giant step back under Gundy, finishing last in the Big 12 South for the first time.

22. Hal Mumme, New Mexico State
Before: 5–6 (4–3 Sun Belt) After: 0–12 (0–8 WAC)
The Aggies' maiden voyage through the WAC was a disaster. Not only did they fail to win a game, but they also finished last in the league in scoring offense and scoring defense.

23. Greg Robinson, Syracuse
Before: 6–6 (4–2) After: 1–10 (0–7)
Syracuse athletic director Daryl Gross fired Paul Pasqualoni because it was "time to go in a different direction." Do you think 1–10 was what he had in mind?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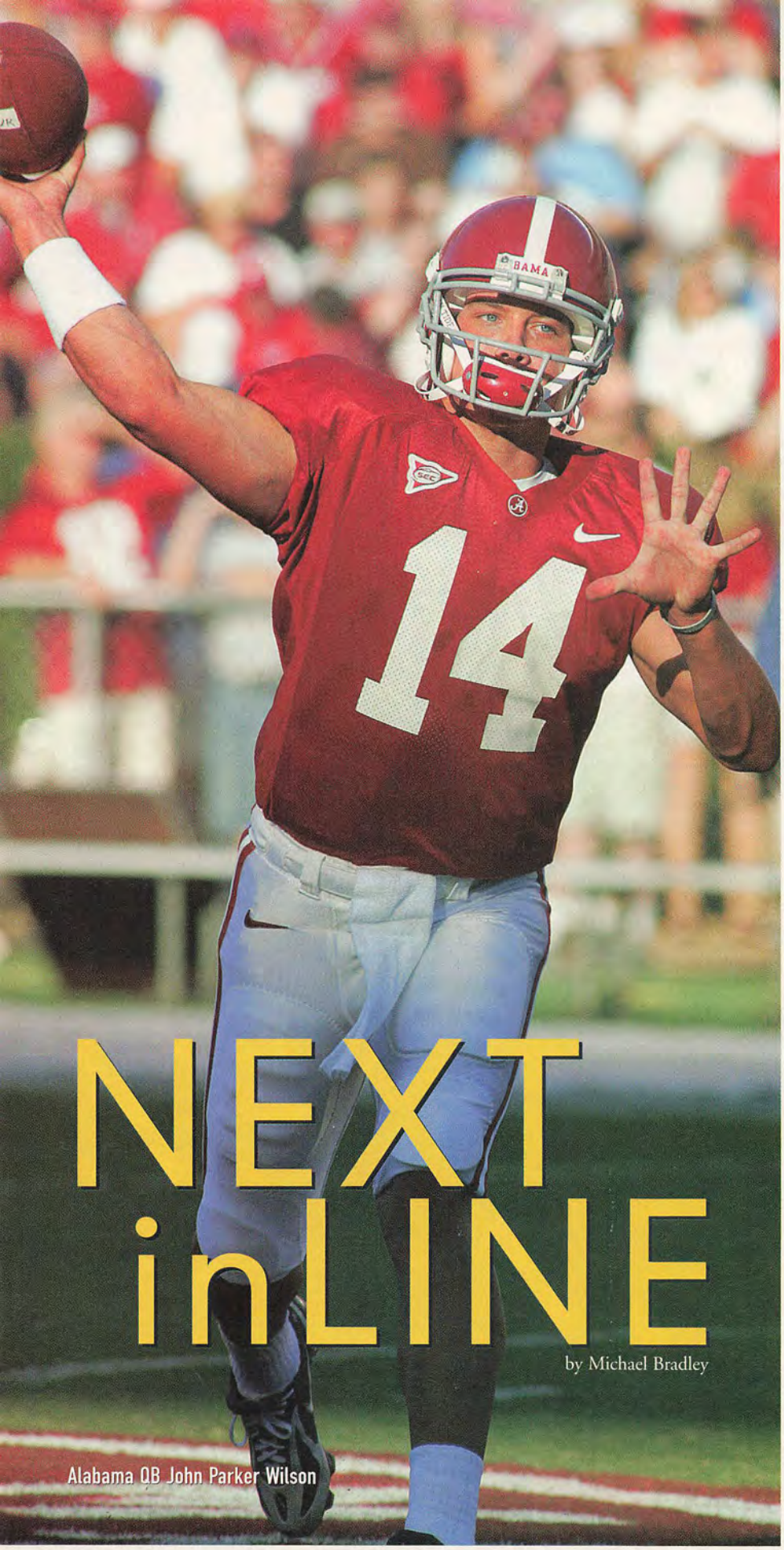


NEXT inLINE

by Michael Bradley

Alabama QB John Parker Wilson

The most star-studded quarterback class in recent memory has left campus. Stepping into the spotlight's glare are some talented but unproven replacements

Okay, so maybe there are worse ways to begin a new job. Insult the boss. Tell off a client. Take a three-hour lunch. All bad. In Alabama, they're minor infractions compared to what John Parker Wilson did in his first scrimmage as the Crimson Tide's starting quarterback.

Instead of creating confidence and leading Bama fans to believe everything in the post-Brodie Croyle world would be just fine, Wilson went the other way. And for a week or so, everybody in the state — except the Auburn folks — was wondering if the Tide could petition the NCAA for another year of eligibility for Croyle. Wilson's first scrimmage numbers: 9-of-22, two interceptions. What in the name of Joe Namath was going on?

"It wasn't a good day at all," Wilson admits. "It was pretty embarrassing, and it took a lot to come back and get things right."

Get it right he did. Wilson was far better the next week, completing 17-of-23 throws for 154 yards and a TD, and by the time the Tide's annual A-Day Game rolled around, he hit on 21-of-31 passes for 244 yards and two scores. While he also had a pair of passes intercepted, the sophomore was far more effective and confident than he had been during his debut.

"I just looked at (the bad scrimmage) as one of those things," he says. "I had some good practices leading up to the scrimmage, but nothing was going right. After that, I just tried to continue practicing the way we were."

When the Tide opens the '06 season against Hawaii, Wilson will have to be more like the successful leader he was at the end of the spring than the struggling fawn he resembled at its outset. Replacing Croyle, who threw for 2,499 yards and 14 TDs last year while completing 59.6 percent of his throws, is a tall order. But Wilson is a fine prospect who threw for more than 3,800 yards as a prep senior and was 7-of-11 with two scores in five games for the Tide in '05. He isn't Croyle, but he has potential.

"John Parker can win for us," Alabama offensive coordinator Dave Rader says. "He can find the right receiver. He showed that in practice. He can read defenses, although he's not fluent yet. John Parker can lead. He can get us out of bad plays. John Parker can make plays. And John Parker can make mistakes."

Sounds like a rookie QB, all right. And it

Wilson: Kent Gidley

could be a description for those around the country who are moving into some pretty high-profile jobs, replacing some standout passers, like USC's Matt Leinart, Penn State's Michael Robinson, Jay Cutler from Vanderbilt, Georgia's D.J. Shockley, and of course, Vince Young of Texas. Across the country, new quarterbacks will be debuting at programs that enjoyed success last year with established stars. Their challenge will be to produce at a high level immediately, despite a general lack of experience. This isn't a midseason emergency assignment — like Georgia backup Joe Tereshinski tackled last year against Florida, when Shockley hurt his knee — but rather a full-time job. No one will asking the new quarterbacks "not to lose" games. Instead, the rookies will be expected to make the throws, call the audibles and lead their teams to wins.

"There's no question we have been a quarterback-driven offense," Texas offensive coordinator Greg Davis says. "We've had Major Applewhite, Chris Simms and Vince Young. We want to continue that. The quarterback is going to be one of our lead dogs. The other point is that we have a pretty good supporting cast. Our running backs have to carry their share. Our line has to carry its share. Our receivers have to carry their share.

"But the quarterbacks, dadgummit, have to make plays. That doesn't mean they have to do it 50 times a game to win, but they have to make plays when we get guys open."

Such is life at the top of the college football food chain. Texas won the '05 national title, but its fans aren't ready to give the Longhorns a free pass this season. A 10–2 record that includes a loss to Oklahoma will be a bad thing, just as Alabama's zealots won't suffer a third-place finish in the SEC West and another defeat at the hands of Auburn in silence. Quarterbacks who step in these days are expected to produce, not learn on the job. Can Anthony Morelli be expected to make the same plays as Robinson did last year? No, because he hasn't started before, and Robinson was a rare talent who could beat offenses with his legs and arm. But Penn State wants to defend its Big Ten title and isn't about to waste a great collection of receivers and a productive back like Tony Hunt on an apprenticeship by Morelli. He has to be ready right away.

That's what spring practice was for, and the way coaches approach the introduction of a new quarterback has changed considerably. Davis didn't baby Texas' candidates — redshirt freshman Colt McCoy and true frosh Jevan Snead, who graduated a term early in order to compete for the starting spot. Davis dropped the full UT playbook in their laps and told them to learn it. Then, he asked the Longhorn defensive coaches to show McCoy and Snead as many different looks as possible, the better to prepare them for what lay ahead.

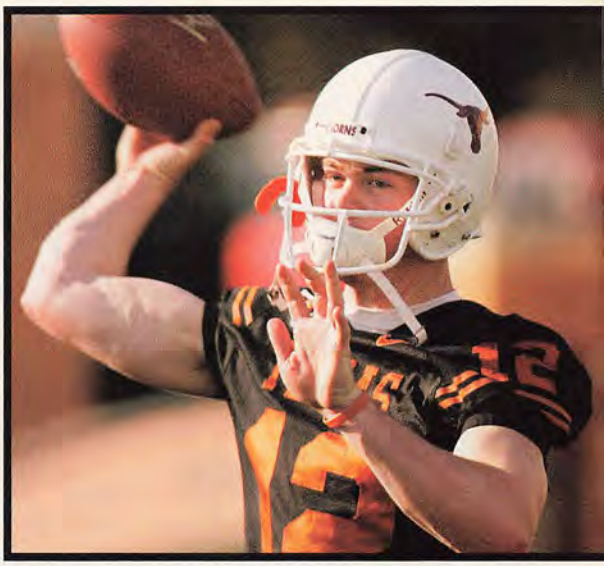
"We took a very aggressive approach," Davis says. "We said, 'We cannot just go through spring and teach a few runs and passes, because we'll be behind come August.' We went at it as if Vince were still the quarterback, because we wanted them to grasp things quickly and grasp a lot."

That's not going to be easy, because unlike many other schools who are replacing quarterbacks with players who have at least stepped onto the field of battle, even in mop-up roles, McCoy and Snead are complete novices. McCoy's redshirt season was spent running the scout team, while Snead was a senior at Stephenville (Texas) High last year. The Longhorns' perfect plan had called for them to apprentice behind Young this season and then fight it out for the starting job in '07, but the Rose Bowl hero's decision to leave Austin early expedited the process.

The experience factor is blended with the Longhorns' need to adapt the offense to whichever quarterback survives the starting competition. Both were recruited to run UT's base attack, but that scheme was altered dramatically last year for Young, who spent the season in the shotgun formation and ran what Davis calls the "gun-run" attack. The offense's staple was the "choice" play, in which Young put the football in the stomach of a running back set up to his immediate left or right, read the defense and then decided to hand it off, take it himself or throw. Both McCoy and Snead have the ability to run and throw, but neither has the magic in his legs that Young had. So, some changes should be in order. Davis is quick to emphasize that there will not be a dramatic transformation, since balance remains the goal of the Texas attack and has been since head coach Mack Brown arrived on campus.

"When we came here in '98, Mack said, 'We're in Texas, and we want to run an offense that will attract the best quarterbacks and attract the best running backs in the state,'" Davis says. "We want to win the game when we can't make an inch running it and win the game when the wind is blowing in our face and we can't throw it."

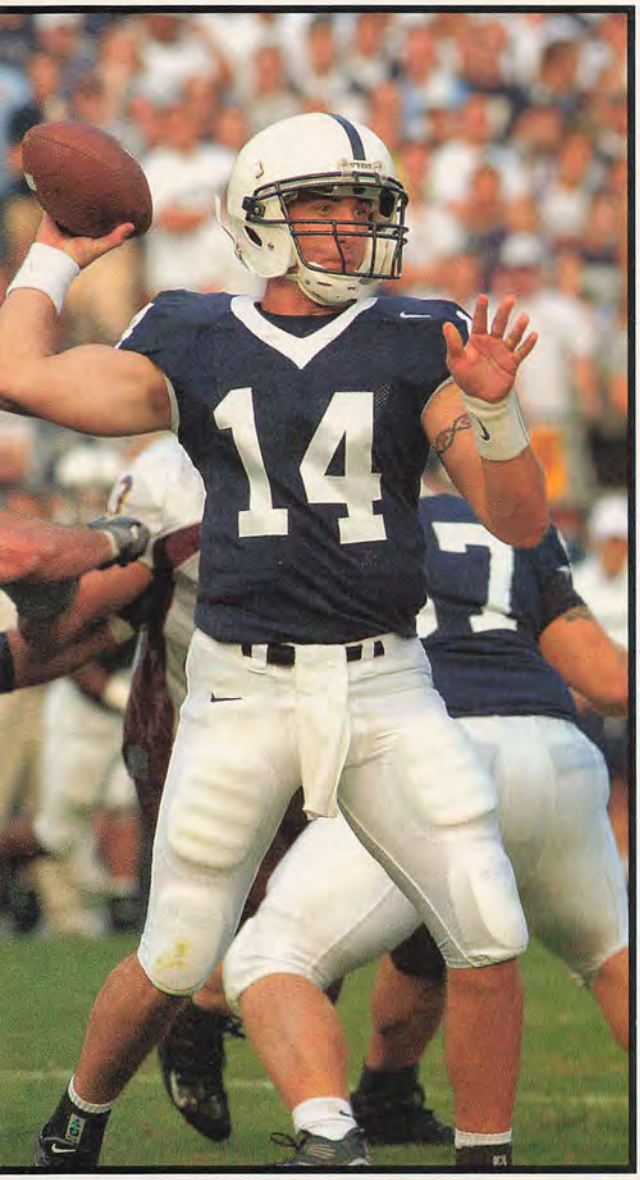
Coming out of spring drills, Davis still hadn't decided which quarterback would be starting the Longhorns' opener with North Texas. In fact, when he met with the players three days after the Orange-White game, Davis told both to plan on being the starter. That's either good news — an abundance of talent — or bad — neither QB distinguished himself. Both can run and throw, although the quarterbacks are more comfortable in the pocket than their predecessor. Snead's pedigree is a little more impressive, if only because he played at a larger school (4A vs. 2A). He's also



Some of the biggest shoes of all belong to national championship-winning QB Vince Young. Charged with filling them are redshirt freshman Colt McCoy (top) and true freshman Jevan Snead.

Texas QBs: Jon Sigmon

carries 20 more pounds on his 6'3" frame than does McCoy, who's the same height. But both were big winners in high school (combined 57–4 as starters). If you want to assign an edge, give it to McCoy, if only because he has spent an extra year in the program. Whoever wins had better be ready quickly; Ohio State visits Austin Sept. 9.



"I told him if he wanted to be the guy, the starting quarterback, he had to start acting like it." —Quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno on Anthony Morelli, heir apparent to Michael Robinson at Penn State

USC has more in common with Texas than just a trip to Pasadena last winter. The Trojans must replace three-year starter Matt Leinart and exited drills with a pair of candidates, both of whom were subjected to a high-pressure spring. "We didn't change anything," USC offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin says. "We installed a ton of plays and put a lot on (the quarterbacks)." By late April, the race to replace Leinart was still unsettled, thanks to a variety of factors. One was a herniated disk suffered by favorite John David Booty, who made headlines in '03 by graduating high school a year early and earning backup work as a true freshman. Another was a sexual assault charge against highly regarded freshman Mark Sanchez. Booty is expected to be back in time for summer practice. Sanchez's return scenario is more complicated.

Even if the charges against him are dismissed, Sanchez was suspended from school in late April and wasn't able to take final exams at the end of winter term. That could cloud his eligibility status. All this after a spring in which he made a significant step forward in relief of Booty. "We made Mark go against the No. 1 defense all spring," Kiffin says. "We made it as hard as we could for him." The results were mixed. After a strong start, Sanchez had trouble with interceptions midway through practice. However, as the drills progressed, he became more comfortable. A fine athlete with a big-time "Carson Palmer" arm, according to Kiffin, Sanchez needs to protect the ball better if he wants to supplant Booty, whom head coach Pete Carroll still considers the favorite.

Though Booty is more experienced and is a prototype pocket passer with a strong and accurate arm, he doesn't move as well as Sanchez can. He may get first shot this August, but there is one immutable law at USC: Every job is up for grabs every day. "The depth chart going into (summer) camp means nothing," Kiffin says. Criminal charges, however, do.

At Penn State, the quarterback's job belongs to Anthony Morelli. That means the junior is pretty comfortable under center, thanks in large part to a process that began late last season. After PSU thumped Wisconsin in its home finale Nov. 5, the team had a bye week before wrapping up the Big Ten title in East Lansing against Michigan State. During that respite, Penn State coaches put Morelli with the first-team offense, with the dual purpose of resting starter Michael Robinson and giving Morelli the chance to be in charge.

"I told him that if he wanted to be the guy, the starting quarterback, he had to start acting like it," Penn State quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno says. "That off week gave him a lot of work with the first team. We backed Mike (Robinson) off and saw how Anthony would do. After that, he had a different attitude."

Morelli says that he felt like it was "his team" right after the Orange Bowl. That was when he hit the film room with a vengeance, started organizing informal passing workouts and hanging out with the linemen — all the things quarterbacks do to establish themselves as leaders. "I'm going to do what I can do to lead this offense the best I can," Morelli says.

His confidence grew as the spring progressed, and during an early-April scrimmage in front of 800 coaches who were attending a clinic at Penn State, Morelli demonstrated his ever-growing sense of self. The first-team offense had the ball on the enemy six, and when Paterno asked the quarterback what he wanted to call, Morelli chose a run — for himself. "He took it right in there, tried to run over a safety at the two and made it to the half-yard line," Paterno says. It wasn't as magical as some of Robinson's dashes, but it answered the questions of some who wondered whether Morelli had the ability to make plays with his legs, and it showed confidence. Although Morelli admits there weren't many designed running plays for him when he quarterbacked Penn Hills (Pa.) High School, Paterno says, "one of the plays on his highlight tape was a 49-yard run for a touchdown to send a playoff game into overtime." Not bad.

Tereshinski won't be including much of the Bulldogs' '06 spring game on his reel. The senior and Joe Cox, one of the three other contenders for the job vacated by Shockley, combined to throw six interceptions in the scrimmage. Meanwhile, true freshman Matthew Stafford threw a 64-yard TD pass but completed little else in a 5-of-12, 102-yard performance. The upshot? While Tereshinski remains the favorite, there is speculation that Stafford or Cox or Blake Barnes, a sophomore who missed the spring game with a thumb injury, will eventually end up under center. "What we're looking at is (making a choice) two weeks before our first game," Georgia offensive coordinator Neil Callaway says.

Tereshinski achieved a bit of renown last October, when he took over for Shockley for the Florida game. No pressure, huh? Just a starring role in The World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party. It didn't go well. Georgia lost, 14–10, and the Bulldogs only managed 286

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total yards. Tereshinski was 8-of-21 for 100 yards and an interception. He did catch a nine-yard TD pass from Thomas Brown, but he didn't overwhelm with his performance, despite the obvious benefits that came from running the team. "That game helped me a lot," Tereshinski says. "I was able to see how to prepare for a game. I took reps with the ones (first team), and that helped me this spring. I also made a big jump in understanding what the offense is about."

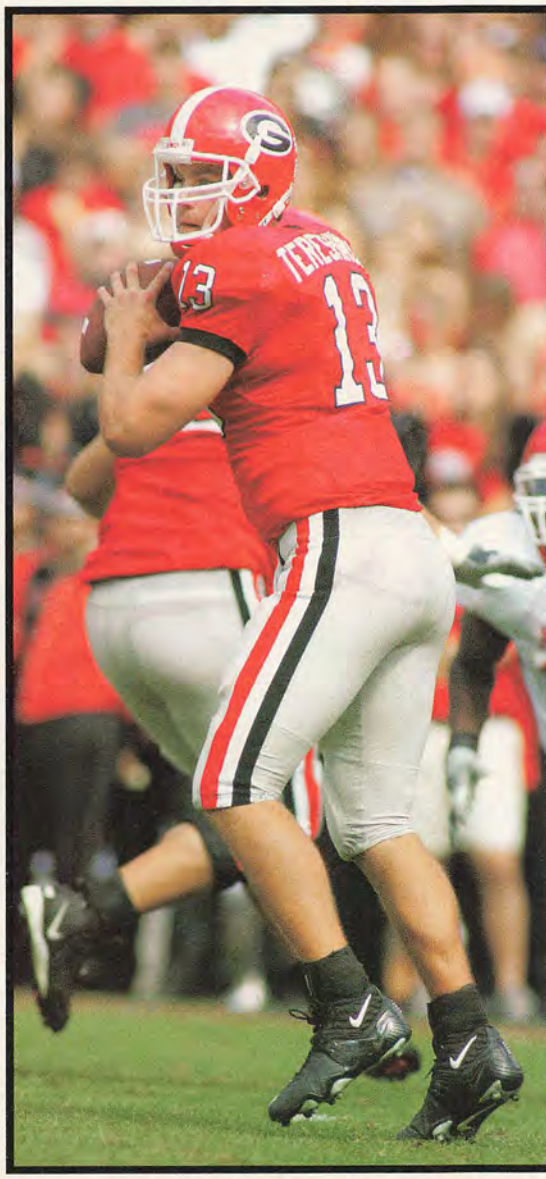
If Tereshinski is under center, that offense will be about a lot less running, more short passing and a greater reliance on the traditionally strong Georgia ground attack.

"Joe is a smart, heady guy," Callaway says. "He has to make the right decision and throw the ball on timing. He's not all that athletic, but he knows the system and can get the ball to the right person."

That may not be the most ringing endorsement, but it should be enough to get Tereshinski the starting nod. Whether he keeps it is another story. Stafford, a freshman who arrived on campus in January after throwing for 4,000 yards as a prep senior, is a 6'3" prospect who moves well and can throw it through a wall. Lest anyone doubt whether Georgia coach Mark Richt will go with a freshman, remember that David Greene took over as a redshirt frosh in '01.

At Vanderbilt, there won't be anybody that young under center, or at least that's how it looks now. Although third-year sophomore Chris Nickson missed the spring game with a cranky hamstring, he appears to be the heir to Jay Cutler, especially since redshirt freshman Mackenzi Adams was 21-of-44 for 145 yards, two TDs and three interceptions in that final scrimmage. "He has the talent and the tools," Vanderbilt offensive coordinator Ted Cain says of Nickson. He doesn't have experience. Though Nickson appeared in five games last season, he threw only three passes. Cain praises Nickson's leadership skills and believes he has the arm to make the same throws Cutler did. Maybe. "We'll see what happens when the bullets start flying in the SEC," Cain says.

And everywhere else around the country.



Joe Tereshinski will be looking over his shoulder at Matthew Stafford, among others, in the race to replace D.J. Shockley at Georgia.

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Whatever happened to Athlon Sports'...

Top 50 Recruits of 2001

1 eric SHELTON

Running Back • Lexington, KY • Florida State

Transferred to Louisville after one season at Florida State and rushed for 1,728 yards (on a 5.5-yard average) and 30 touchdowns in two seasons with the Cardinals. Declared for the NFL Draft after his junior season and was **picked by Carolina in the second round in 2005.**

2 joe MAUER

Quarterback • St. Paul, MN • Florida State

Never enrolled at Florida State. Signed a contract with the Minnesota Twins after being selected with the **No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 June Amateur Major League Baseball Draft. Currently the starting catcher for the Twins.**

3 brodie CROYLE

Quarterback • Rainbow City, AL • Alabama

Enjoyed a solid senior season (2,499 yards, 14 TDs, four INTs) after struggling with injuries for most of his career. **Selected by the Chiefs in the third round of the 2006 NFL draft.**

4 jabari DAVIS

Running Back • Stone Mountain, GA • Tennessee

Played both tailback and fullback for the Vols but failed to live up to expectations. Started only six games and rushed for 1,246 yards in his four-year career. Was not drafted.

5 kevin JONES

Running Back • Chester, PA • Virginia Tech

Was a huge recruit for Virginia Tech, and he lived up to the hype. **Earned first-team All-America honors** as a junior after rushing for 1,647 yards and 21 touchdowns. **Selected by the Detroit Lions with the 30th pick in the 2004 Draft.**

6 shaun CODY

Defensive Lineman • Hacienda Heights, CA • USC

Four-year starter was a consensus **first-team All-America pick** as a senior. Spent his first three seasons at defensive tackle; moved to end as a senior. Recorded 21 sacks in four years. **Drafted in the second round (2005) by the Lions.**

7 reggie WILLIAMS

Wide Receiver • Tacoma, WA • Washington

Set school record for catches (238) and yards (3,536) despite playing only three seasons. **A two-time first-team All-Pac-10 pick.** Declared for the draft after his junior season and was **picked by Jacksonville with the ninth pick in 2004.**

8 marquise HILL

Defensive Lineman • New Orleans, LA • LSU

Enjoyed a solid three-year career on some very good teams but never earned first- or second-team All-SEC honors. Recorded 10 sacks from defensive end spot. **Selected by New England with final pick in the second round of the 2004 draft.**

Shelton: Bruce Schwartzman; Mauer: Michael Zagaris/Getty Images; Williams: SportFolio

9 roscoe CROSBY

Wide Receiver • Buffalo, SC • Clemson

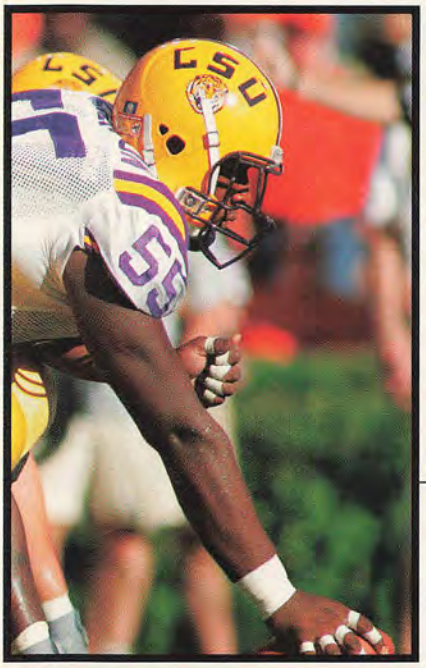
Crosby was considered a can't-miss prospect in both baseball and football coming out of Union (S.C.) High School. He was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the second round of the 2001 amateur draft and signed a letter-of-intent to play football at Clemson. His football career began on a promising note; he set Clemson freshman records for receptions (27) and receiving yards (465) in 2001. Sadly, that has been the high point of his post-high school athletic endeavors. An elbow injury and subsequent Tommy John surgery in the summer of 2002 essentially ended his baseball career, though he did give the sport another go in March 2003. Crosby temporarily returned to the football field at the outset of the 2003 season, but he left school after just one game due to family problems. He tried to return to Clemson for the 2004 season but was ruled academically ineligible. After not being selected in the 2005 NFL supplemental draft, Crosby signed a two-year free agent deal with the Colts in July 2005. He was released prior to the season but re-signed with the team in November and hopes to earn a spot on the Colts' 53-man roster next season.

10 carnell WILLIAMS

Running Back • Attalla, AL • Auburn

Earned first-team All-SEC honors in 2003 and '04 despite sharing time with Ronnie Brown. Finished his four-year career with 3,831 yards, second to Bo Jackson (4,303) on the Tigers' all-time rushing list. **Was selected by Tampa Bay with the fifth pick in the 2005 Draft and went on to win Offensive Rookie of the Year honors.**

2001 RECRUITS



tommie HARRIS 11

Defensive Lineman • Killeen, TX • Oklahoma

One of the most decorated recruits from 2001, Harris was **a two-time consensus All-American and the recipient of the 2003 Lombardi Award**, given to the nation's top interior lineman. Left school after his junior season and was **selected by the Bears with the 14th pick in the 2004 draft.**

ben WILKERSON 12

Offensive Lineman • Hemphill, TX • LSU

A four-year starter in Baton Rouge who was the **co-recipient of the 2004 Remington Award**, given to the nation's top center. Draft status was hurt by a serious injury sustained late in his senior season.

Signed by the Bengals as an undrafted free agent and spent the 2005 season on the injured list.

michael CRAVEN 13

Linebacker • LaQuinta, CA • Stanford

Started four games as a redshirt freshman in 2002 and five games as a sophomore the following year but did not start a single game over his final two seasons. Recorded 25 tackles as a senior.

kelly BARAKA 14

Running Back • Portage, MI • Michigan

Never played a down for Michigan. Suspended for the 2001 season after two arrests for possession of marijuana, then kicked out of the program for undisclosed reasons in the spring of 2002. Played the 2003 season for Joliet (Ill.) Junior College. Had planned on playing for the University of Findlay, a Division III program in Ohio, but he never showed up at the school.

leon WILLIAMS 15

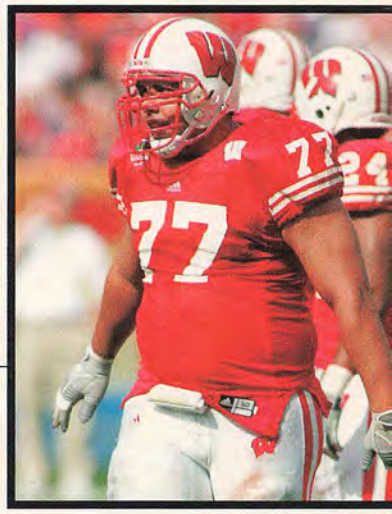
Linebacker • Brooklyn, NY • Miami

Never quite turned into the next great Hurricane linebacker. Started five games at middle linebacker as a junior in 2004 but was beaten out as a senior by sophomore Romeo Davis.

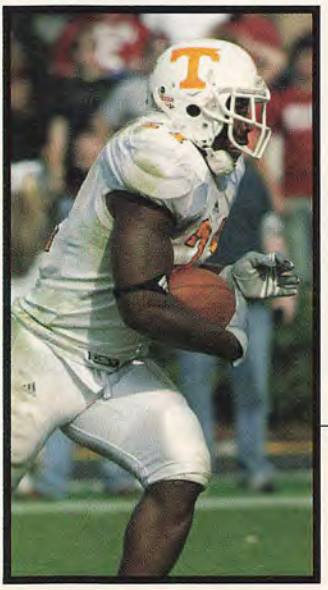
anttaj HAWTHORNE 16

Defensive Lineman • Hamden, CT • Wisconsin

Thrust into action as a true freshman and worked his way into the starting lineup for the final two games of the 2001 season. Went on to start the final 41 games of his career and earned **first-team All-Big Ten honors as a junior and senior. Selected by the Raiders in the sixth round of the 2005 draft.**



Wilkerson and Hawthorne: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Houston: Greg Abramowitz



marcus SPEARS 17

Tight End • Baton Rouge, LA • LSU

Recruited as a tight end, he played both ways as a freshman before settling in at defensive end on a full-time basis as a sophomore. Started three seasons at end and capped off a nice career by earning **first-team All-America honors** from the *Associated Press* as a senior in 2004. **Picked up two SEC titles and a national championship. Selected by the Cowboys with the 20th pick in the '05 draft.**

ahmad CARROLL 18

Cornerback • Atlanta, GA • Arkansas

Batman made an immediate impact at Arkansas, moving into the starting lineup midway through his true freshman season in 2001. Also starred on the Razorbacks' special teams and was a sprinter for Arkansas' track team. Left after his junior season and was **selected by the Packers with the 25th pick in the first round of the 2004 draft.**

cedric HOUSTON 19

Running Back • Clarendon, AR • Tennessee

Finished his career fifth on the Vols' career rushing list with 2,634 yards, including 1,005 as a senior in 2004. Earned **second-team All-SEC honors** from the coaches as a junior and senior. **Picked by the Jets in the sixth round of the 2005 draft.**

chris SPENCER 20

Offensive Lineman • Madison, MS • Ole Miss

Only started more than four games one time in his career in Oxford. Declared for the NFL Draft after earning **honorable mention All-SEC honors as a junior** in 2004. Pro teams obviously thought more highly of him than the SEC coaches and writers; he was **picked by Seattle in the first round (26th overall) of the 2005 draft.**

2001 RECRUITS

cecil HOWARD 21

Quarterback • McKeesport, PA • Syracuse

Howard left Syracuse after just one season, a redshirt year in 2001. He enrolled at Division I-AA Youngstown State but quit after just a few practices in the fall of 2002. He then landed at Northeastern, another I-AA school, but never played a down for the Huskies. Finally, Howard settled on Division II power California University of Pennsylvania. He played sparingly for the Vulcans in 2005, as a junior, but did not attempt a pass and quit the team in midseason. In the only live action of his four-school, five-year odyssey, Howard had five rushing attempts for 10 yards and one touchdown.

d.j. SHOCKLEY 22

Quarterback • College Park, GA • Georgia

Shockley waited patiently behind David Greene and shined in his only season as the Bulldogs' starter. He **shared first-team All-SEC honors** (*Associated Press*) with Vanderbilt's Jay Cutler in 2005 after leading the league in passing efficiency. **He was picked by the Atlanta Falcons in the seventh round of the '06 NFL Draft.**

george GAUSE 23

Defensive Lineman • Conway, SC • South Carolina

Gause was a solid three-year starter at South Carolina, but he never developed into an All-SEC-caliber player. Recorded 15 sacks in his career as a defensive end. Was not selected in the 2004 NFL Draft.

jerome CARTER 24

Defensive Back • Lake City, FL • Florida State

Started for three years at rover for the Seminoles and **earned honorable mention All-ACC honors** as a junior in 2003. Recorded 74 tackles with 3.5 sacks as a senior. **Picked by the Rams in the fourth round of the 2005 draft.** Played in 14 games as a rookie.

j.r. LEMON 25

Running Back • Fayetteville, GA • Stanford

Never emerged as a top-flight Pac-10 running back. Started 15 games in his four-year career, rushing for a total of 1,214 yards, including only 222 (on a 2.9-yard average) as a senior in 2005. Had three 100-yard games in his career.

michael CLAYTON 26

Wide Receiver • Baton Rouge, LA • LSU

Finished his three-year career ranked first all-time at LSU in touchdown receptions (21), second in catches (182) and fourth in receiving yards (2,582). Left school after earning **first-team All-SEC honors** as a junior in 2003. **Drafted by the Buccaneers with the 15th pick in the first round and enjoyed a banner rookie season, catching 80 passes for 1,193 yards and seven touchdowns.**

kevin SIMON 27

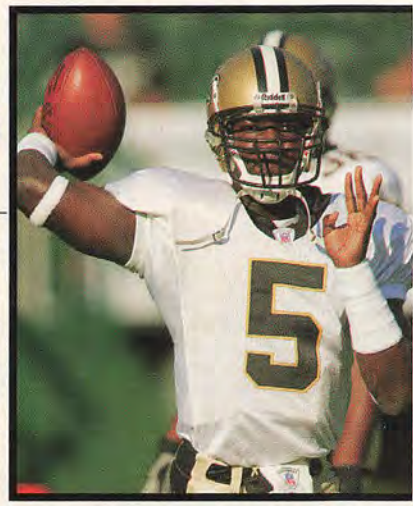
Linebacker • Concord, CA • Tennessee

Capped off his injury-plagued career with a solid senior season, recording a team-high 88 tackles and earning **second-team All-SEC honors.** Missed his freshman season due to a torn ACL suffered in a high school all-star game; missed all but three games of the 2002 season with an injured ankle; and missed all but two games of the '04 season with another torn ACL. **Selected by the Redskins in the seventh round of the '06 draft.**

marlin JACKSON 28

Defensive Back • Sharon, PA • Michigan

A four-year starter in Ann Arbor who spent his first two seasons at corner, moved to safety as a junior, then switched back to corner as a senior. **Named first-team All-America** by the *Associated Press* in 2004, his final year at Michigan. **Selected by the Colts with the 19th pick in the 2005 NFL Draft.**



adrian MCPHERSON 29

Quarterback • Bradenton, FL • Florida State

McPherson, the first player ever to win both Mr. Basketball and Mr. Football in the state of Florida, spent only two seasons in Tallahassee. He was kicked off the team following the 2002 season for stealing a blank check (and cashing it for over $3,000), and then in early 2003 he was charged with gambling on professional and college games. (He pleaded no contest on both charges and served no jail time.) McPherson attempted to continue his collegiate career at both Murray State (January 2003) and Tennessee State (August 2003), but neither Division I-AA school would allow him to play football. His next move was to the Indiana Firebirds of the Arena Football League. Despite not playing a full season, the 19-year-old McPherson was named the AFL's Rookie of the Year after throwing for 2,965 yards and 56 touchdowns in 14 games. Convinced that he had the talent to play at the highest level, McPherson then threw his name into the 2005 NFL Draft. The **New Orleans Saints** took a chance on the talented but troubled quarterback, **selecting him in the fifth round with the 152nd overall pick in the draft.** He didn't play a down during his rookie season.

mark LEVOIR 30

30. Mark LeVoir • Tight End • Eden Prairie, MN • Notre Dame

Signed as a tight end but moved to the offensive line during two-a-days of his freshman season. Started at left guard as a sophomore in 2003 before moving over to right tackle, where he started 23 games over his final two seasons. **Signed a free agent contract with the Chicago Bears following the NFL Draft.**

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2001 RECRUITS

craphonso THORPE 31

Wide Receiver • Tallahassee, FL • Florida State

Peaked as a junior, when he **earned first-team All-ACC honors** after catching 51 passes for 994 yards and 11 touchdowns. Also a two-time letterwinner on the Seminoles' track team. **Selected by the Chiefs in the fourth round of the 2005 NFL Draft.**

dominic ROBINSON 32

Defensive Back • Diamond Bar, CA • Florida State

Robinson signed as a cornerback but was switched to wide receiver at FSU. After serving as a return specialist as a true freshman, he played his way into the rotation as a sophomore in 2002. Continued to be a valuable contributor, but he never worked his way into the starting lineup.

patrick ESTES 33

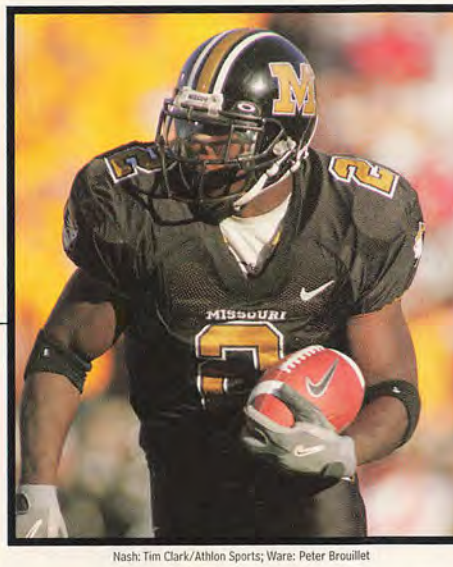
Tight End • Richmond, VA • Virginia

Got stuck behind classmate Heath Miller — a less-heralded recruit who went on to become a first-round draft pick — but still saw plenty of action in the Cavaliers' two-tight end sets. Ended his four-year career with 28 receptions for 252 yards and five touchdowns. Despite his limited role in college, Estes was **picked by the 49ers in the seventh round of the 2005 Draft and has been converted to tackle.**

damien NASH 34

Running Back • East St. Louis, IL • Missouri

Ended up at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College after failing to qualify out of high school. Played only one game in two seasons in junior college; he redshirted in 2001 and injured his knee in the '02 opener. Re-signed with Missouri and rushed for 462 yards in 2003 and 792 in '04. Was suspended for one game in 2004 after questioning the team's play-calling, then he left the program for good in 2004. Nash considered transferring to a I-AA school but **opted to declare for the NFL Draft, where he was selected by the Titans in the fifth round.**



Nash: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Ware: Peter Brouillet

pat MASSEY 35

Defensive Lineman • Brecksville, OH • Michigan

Started three years — at defensive end as a sophomore and junior and at defensive tackle as a senior in 2005. **Earned honorable mention all-conference honors twice. Signed a free agent deal with the San Diego Chargers.**

ernest SHAZOR 36

Defensive Back • Detroit, MI • Michigan

Strong safety capped off an outstanding career at Michigan by **earning first-team All-America honors** from the *Associated Press* as a junior in 2004. He left Ann Arbor with a season of eligibility remaining but was not selected in the NFL Draft. Initially expected to go in the second or third round, Shazor saw his stock drop after running a 4.70 40-yard dash in a pre-draft workout. **He signed with the Cardinals as an undrafted free agent.**

matt ROTH 37

Linebacker • Villa Park, IL • Iowa

Arrived at Iowa as a 6'4", 245-pound linebacker. Departed as a 270-pound defensive end who recorded 30 sacks in a brilliant four-year career. Roth **earned first-team All-Big Ten honors** as a junior and senior and was a **second-team All-America pick** as a senior in 2004. **Selected by the Dolphins in the second round (46th overall pick) of the 2005 draft.**

lorenzo ALEXANDER 38

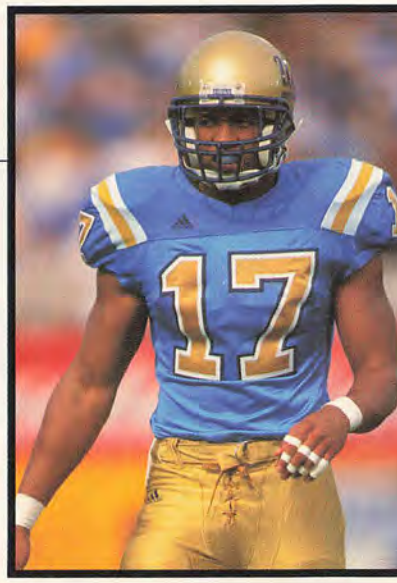
Offensive Lineman • Oakland, CA • California

Alexander never blossomed into a star but enjoyed a solid career as a defensive tackle in Berkeley. He started 37 games over four years, including five as a true freshman, and **earned honorable mention All-Pac-10 honors twice and second-team All-Pac-10 honors once.** Went undrafted but **signed with the Carolina Panthers. Spent the 2005 season on the practice squad.**

matt WARE 39

Defensive Back • Malibu, CA • UCLA

Made an immediate impact, becoming the **first player at UCLA to start every game as a true freshman.** He started 11 games at cornerback in 2001 but was moved over to free safety prior to the 2002 season. After three games, however, he switched back to corner, where he remained the rest of his career. Never earned all-conference honors. Left school with a year of eligibility remaining and was **selected by the Eagles in the third round of the 2004 draft.**



derek ANDERSON 40

Quarterback • Scappoose, OR • Oregon State

Set virtually every school passing record during his three years as a starter, and he became **the first Oregon State quarterback to lead the Beavers to three bowl games.** For his career, Anderson completed 50.7 percent of his attempts for 11,249 yards, 79 touchdowns and 57 interceptions. He was **drafted by the Ravens in the sixth round of the 2005 Draft but was released on Sept. 20. He was then signed by Cleveland the next day, and he remains on the Browns' roster.**

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2001 RECRUITS

robert BOULWARE 41

Defensive Back • Charlotte, NC • Tennessee

Failed to work his way into the starting lineup during his time in Knoxville. Totaled only 23 tackles in his three years on the field. Did not return for final season of eligibility in 2005. Also participated on the Vols' track and field team.

de'arrius HOWARD 42

Running Back • West Memphis, AR • Arkansas

Only started one game in his four-year career, but Howard was a solid performer in the Hogs' backfield. He peaked as a freshman, rushing for 595 yards and seven touchdowns, and ended his career with 1,719 yards (on a 4.2-yard average) and 21 touchdowns.

quan CROSBY 43

Wide Receiver • Mart, TX • Texas

Did not enroll at Texas in 2001, opting instead to sign with the Anaheim Angels, who selected him in the sixth round of the baseball draft. Spent three years in the Angels' system (a year in rookie ball and two in Single-A), hitting a combined .263 in 299 minor league games. **Returned to football last fall, enrolling at Texas** in August 2005. Started three games as a 22-year-old freshman, including the Rose Bowl win over USC. Caught two passes for 16 yards in the Rose Bowl and ended the season with 15 catches for 270 yards.

blake LARSEN 44

Offensive Lineman • Atlantic, IA • Iowa

Failed to live up to the hype, due in part to an inability to remain healthy. After sitting out his first season as a redshirt, Larsen spent the next three years as a reserve tackle. He left Iowa after the 2004 season with one season of eligibility remaining.

lemarcus ROWELL 45

Linebacker • Opelika, AL • Auburn

One of the few members of the class of 2001 who is still playing collegiately. He failed to pass through the NCAA clearinghouse prior to his freshman season, so his five-year window of eligibility did not begin until the 2002 season. He played in 11 games as a true freshman in 2002 but was suspended from school in July 2003 after running afoul of the law. He played the 2003 season at Itawamba (Miss.) Community College, where he earned All-America honors. From there, he enrolled at Division I-AA Jacksonville State. He was **named second-team All-Ohio Valley Conference** in 2004 but then sat out last fall as a redshirt. He is expected to play his final season for the Gamecocks in 2006.

tyler REED 46

Defensive Lineman • Pittsburgh, PA • Penn State

After sitting out as a redshirt in 2001, playing sparingly as a reserve in '02, Reed worked his way into the starting lineup at right guard as a sophomore in '03. Was a solid three-year starter for the Nittany Lions, but he never received any all-conference mention.

lydell ROSS 47

Running Back • Tampa, FL • Ohio State

Ross **became the youngest back in Big Ten history to rush for 100 yards in a game** when he gained 124 against Indiana in 2001 at the age of 17. He was the Buckeyes' No. 2 back as a freshman and sophomore then took over as the feature back in his final two seasons. Finished his career with 2,339 yards and 26 touchdowns. **Signed a free agent contract with the Chargers** in July 2005 but was let go prior to the start of the season.

fred GIBSON 48

Wide Receiver • Waycross, GA • Georgia

Was a big-play threat for the Bulldogs from the day he stepped foot on campus. Started his career off with a 33-catch, 772-yard freshman season and continued to shine — when healthy. Ended his four years with 161 catches for 2,884 yards and 20 touchdowns. Also played for the Georgia basketball team as a freshman. **Selected by the Steelers in the fourth round of the 2005 draft but was released in training camp and subsequently signed by the Dolphins.**

cedric BENSON 49

Running Back • Midland, TX • Texas

Enjoyed one of the most productive careers of any back in college football history. **One of five running backs to rush for at least 1,000 yards in each season. Capped off his 1,112-carry, 5,540-yard career by winning the 2004 Doak Walker Award. Selected by the Chicago Bears with the fourth pick in the 2005 draft.**

airese CURRIE 50

Wide Receiver • Columbia, SC • Clemson

Ended a solid career by earning **first-team All-ACC honors** in 2004 after catching 61 passes for 868 yards and two touchdowns. Totaled 2,030 yards and 138 receptions in four seasons. Also starred for the Clemson track and field team. **Selected by the Bears in the fifth round of the 2005 NFL Draft.**

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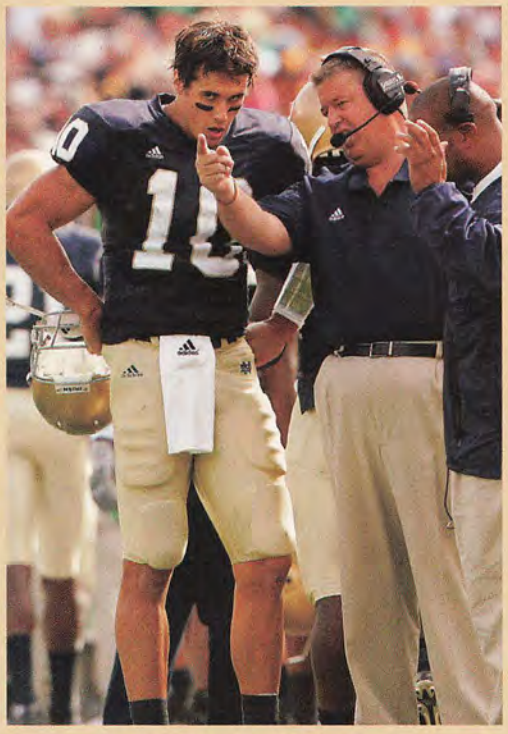
CHARLIE WEIS

The sky is the limit for the Irish under football's offensive mastermind

by Tim Prister



In one season, Weis transformed Brady Quinn from an average quarterback to a leading Heisman Trophy candidate, which will lead to more of the nation's top prep quarterbacks to South Bend in the years to come.

Just seven games into his collegiate head coaching career, Charlie Weis — sporting a pedestrian 5–2 record — landed a lucrative contract extension from the University of Notre Dame that would carry him through the 2015 season.

Tyrone Willingham started out 8–0 in 2002 and Notre Dame never offered him a contract extension. In fact, after just three seasons, Willingham was fired and replaced by Weis.

Now, just seven games into Weis' tenure, the University handed him the keys to the executive washroom before he had proven that he could clean up the mess left by Willingham's 14 losses in his last 25 games.

"In a very short period of time, Charlie has clearly and impressively demonstrated the ability to take the Notre Dame program where we all want it to go," said Notre Dame athletic director Dr. Kevin White.

Too much too soon? Not if you witnessed what White saw during Weis' first 10-and-a-half months on the job.

Professional Background/Success — Weis was at the forefront of the New England Patriots' three Super Bowl titles as the offensive coordinator of the Tom Brady-led attack. The Patriots' offense was innovative and on the cutting edge. Weis stayed a step ahead with what many considered good but not great talent (other than Brady).

Weis learned from two of the best head coaches in the history of the NFL — Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick. The same could be said of Willingham, who prepped under Bill Walsh. But when the offense struggled from the outset of the Willingham regime, he proved incapable of the X's and O's creativity that seemed so elementary to Weis. Even when the Irish won their first eight games under Willingham, they still ended the season ranked 108th in the country in total offense.

Offensive Explosion — Under Weis, Notre Dame went from the bottom one-third nationally in offense to among the nation's elite with basically the same personnel.

Weis transformed Notre Dame's offense into the 10th-rated unit in the country. Quarterback Brady Quinn, who passed for 3,919 yards and ranked No. 7 in pass efficiency rating in 2005, is among everyone's top three pre-season Heisman Trophy candidates.

It's hard to envision Quinn developing into a Heisman Trophy candidate in Notre Dame's lethargic, unimaginative attack under coordinator Bill Diedrick from 2002-04. Willingham planned no changes in the coaching staff when it appeared he would be returning for a fourth year at Notre Dame.

Understanding the Culture — There were factions that were offended by Willingham's firing. Weis took over a house that was divided and quickly began mending fences. Four former Irish greats "coached" the spring game — Joe Montana, Joe Theismann, Tim Brown and Chris Zorich. Zorich had been particularly outspoken about Willingham's firing. Not only did Weis patch up the dispute, he convinced Zorich to come back for the spring game.

Shortly after taking the job, Weis went from dorm to dorm to speak with the students. He even met with several hundred students at 6 a.m. the day his full-time duties at his alma mater began.

When it comes to academics, the Notre Dame environment, the weather or any other nuance within the campus culture, Weis understands it. He lived it as a 1978 graduate of Notre Dame.

Recruiting Prowess — Weis' recruiting acumen is directly tied to his feel for the Notre Dame culture. One of his first accomplishments on the job was winning the favor/trust of Notre Dame's admissions department.

Whereas Willingham had begun to shy away from pursuing some of the same players coveted by USC, Florida, Texas et al, Weis said he'd do battle with anyone. He became one of the few head coaches in the country to personally hit the recruiting trail in May.

Weis' second recruiting class was rated among the top 10 in the country. He was off to another fast start with next year's class, led by the verbal commitment of top-rated quarterback Jimmy Clausen.

There is no guarantee that Weis will continue to build upon the 9–3 record from his first season in South Bend. It was still just a three-game improvement over Willingham's last season at Notre Dame. Plus, the Irish were out-classed in their last game of the year, a one-sided 34–20 loss to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl.

Yet as the Irish began winter workouts, they were greeted by a sign that read: "9–3 is not good enough." The standard for excellence had been established and refined during Weis' first year on the job.

Spend a year around Charlie Weis and you'll understand why Dr. Kevin White quickly secured him with a lengthy contract extension. The 2005 season was no fluke. Under Weis, Notre Dame is back…and here to stay.

Elsa/Getty Images

MERE MORTAL

CHARLIE WEIS

It's way too early to put Weis among Notre Dame's coaching elite.

by Mark Schlabach

In only one season as his alma mater's football coach, Charlie Weis has awakened the echoes at Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish were ranked among the top 10 teams in the country last season, came within a bad spot and impromptu quarterback sneak of upsetting two-time defending national champion USC and played in a Bowl Championship Series game. In a little over four months, Weis put college football's most storied program back in the national consciousness, where it belongs.

But don't put that buzz cut on Touchdown Jesus just yet.

Yes, what Weis did at Notre Dame last season can only be described as remarkable. He took over a program that had floundered under former coach Tyrone Willingham — the Fighting Irish were 6–6 in 2004 — and turned it into one of the most feared offenses in the country. Last season's team, which featured the passing of Brady Quinn, running of Darius Walker and pass catching of Anthony Fasano, Maurice Stovall and Jeff Samardzija, scored more points than any other team in Notre Dame history.

And with Quinn coming back for what could be a Heisman Trophy-winning senior season in 2006, and blue-chip quarterback prospect Jimmy Clausen committing to come on board in 2007, the Fighting Irish won't slip much offensively in the immediate future. In fact, they figure to have a sizable advantage every time they step on the field because of the man calling plays on the sideline.

So why not put Weis among the ranks of Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Ara Parseghian and Lou Holtz the great Fighting Irish coaches of the past? As the 34–20 loss to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl proved, Notre Dame still has a long way to go, especially on defense.

Notre Dame had problems stopping opponents last season — how else to explain a three-point loss to a Michigan State team coached by John L. Smith? If Notre Dame's defense had figured out how to stop USC quarterback Matt Leinart just once in the final seconds, the Irish might have been talking about Roses instead of Tostitos.

Weis succeeds on offense because of his coaching pedigree. He plugs players into his system, which has proved to be nearly foolproof. Quarterbacks will sign with Notre Dame because Weis coached Tom Brady, who went from a late-round pick to a two-time Super Bowl MVP. Running backs and wide receivers will sign with the Fighting Irish because they will want to play in those record-setting offenses. And offensive linemen will go to South Bend because former Notre Dame linemen still litter the NFL.

But Weis' real challenge, along with continuing to loosen the high standards of Notre Dame's admissions office, is finding superior athletes who want to play defense. Not since defensive lineman Renaldo Wynn was chosen by the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1997 has Notre Dame had a defensive player drafted in the first round (only two Fighting Irish players — offensive tackle Luke Petitgout in 1999 and center Jeff Faine in 2003, it should be noted, were first-rounders since Wynn). Finding big linemen, menacing linebackers and super-athletic cornerbacks should be Notre Dame's biggest priority. Because as prolific as Weis' offense was in New England, the Patriots won three Super Bowls with defense. And Notre Dame will struggle to stop most teams, except when it plays the military academies.

Weis has two outstanding recruiters on his staff: Mike Haywood and Rob Ianello, who were the recruiting coordinators at Texas and Wisconsin, respectively. They have already left their mark and understand Notre Dame isn't the football program that it once was. Notre Dame has to work as hard as everyone else, or even harder, in recruiting, something Willingham and his staff weren't willing to do. Despite Notre Dame's storied tradition, the school doesn't recruit itself anymore. The weather stinks. The school has a stricter conduct code than places like Miami, Oklahoma, USC and Texas. And that lucrative contract with NBC doesn't mean as much anymore because *everybody* plays on TV.

Notre Dame will be good enough to return to the Bowl Championship Series this season, perhaps even play in the Fiesta Bowl for the national title. Who knows? Maybe the Fighting Irish will even win a bowl game this season, something they haven't done in more than a decade. But before Weis can be mentioned in the same breath with Notre Dame's five Hall of Fame coaches, he has to win consistently, like the Irish did under Leahy, Parseghian and Holtz.

Notre Dame doesn't need another one-hit wonder. Even the non-descript Bob Davie won nine games twice. And don't forget that in his very first season at Notre Dame, Willingham won 10.

Ohio State's 34-20 shellacking in the Fiesta Bowl showed some alarming holes in Notre Dame's defense and showed just how much further the Irish have to go in order to compete for a national title.

Lisa Blumenfeld/Getty Images

PRESEASON TOP 25

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1 OKLAHOMA SOONERS

Flying in under the radar come the Oklahoma Sooners. After an uncharacteristically sub-par season, it's out of sight, out of mind — but not for long. Due in large part to a ruinous rash of injuries in 2005, there are 22 players back who drew at least one starting assignment last fall, compared to only 17 with starting experience going into last season. OU won six of its last seven games, including a 17–14 victory over sixth-ranked Oregon in the Holiday Bowl. In addition, the 2006 Sooners welcome back their top passer, rusher, receiver, tackler and sack man from '05.

Quarterback Rhett Bomar took the reins on offense in Game 2 as a redshirt freshman and got better and better as the season wore on. In his 12 appearances, with 10 starts, he threw for 2,018 yards — a school freshman record — and 10 touchdowns, and he has just begun to tap his enormous potential.

Two years ago, running back Adrian Peterson set an NCAA freshman record with 1,925 rushing yards, averaging 5.7 per carry with 15 touchdowns. Last fall, he was hampered by an ankle injury all season, missing all or most of four games, and still ran for more than 1,000 yards with a five-yard average and 14 scores. Peterson is the best ball-carrier in America, and no one else is close.

2005 RESULTS: 8–4 (6–2 BIG 12)

RETURNING STARTERS: 4 OFFENSE, 8 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Five of the top seven receivers are back, including sophomores Malcolm Kelly, Juaquin Iglesias and Manuel Johnson. Kelly led the way with 33 catches, and the three averaged over 15 yards per catch combined. Converted quarterback Paul Thompson and tight end Joe Jon Finley round out the receivers' playing group.

There is only one full-time starter back on the offensive line — right tackle Chris Messner — but most of the new men have game action under their belts. Tackle Branndon Braxton started three games last season, guard J.D. Quinn started four and center Jon Cooper started two.

Linebackers Rufus Alexander, a first-team All-Big 12 returnee, and Zach Latimer combined for 186 tackles, including 23 for a loss and nine sacks, in 2005 and form the cornerstone of the defense. Larry Birdine and John Williams, both of whom sat out last year with injuries, return at end along with C.J. Ah You and Calvin Thibodeaux, who started in their stead. Ah You was the runaway choice as league Newcomer of the Year and was Defensive MVP of the Holiday Bowl. Thibodeaux turned in a team-high 10 sacks for the season.

Reggie Smith spent most of the 2005 campaign as a true freshman starter at strong safety and again will join Darien Williams in the deep zones. D.J. Wolfe started all 11 games at cornerback last year after switching from running back and responded with 65 tackles, along with five for a loss. He also picked off two passes, running one back for a touchdown, and broke up 10 others.

After tuning up at home against UAB and Washington, the Sooners travel to Eugene for the first challenge of the season — a Sept. 16 rematch of last year's Holiday Bowl with Oregon. Iowa State and Texas Tech both must come to Norman, and there is no Nebraska on the 2006 slate.

And don't forget the Red River Shootout against Texas in Dallas on Oct. 7.

Yoots Oklahoma was one of the youngest teams in DI-A last season, with 12 true freshmen seeing game action and 11 drawing at least one starting assignment.

Bring 'em on The Sooners played the toughest schedule in the nation last year, based on cumulative records of their opponents as compiled by the NCAA. OU played seven teams that ended up in the 2005-06 postseason.

Pack 'em in Oklahoma led the Big 12 in attendance in 2005 with an average of 84,331 fans at six home games.

Layne Murdoch

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Photos by Peter Brouillet

2 NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

Charlie Weis had an Irish offense that had been stuck in reverse for years shattering one school record after another. Quarterback Brady Quinn was the beneficiary of Weis' personal attention through last spring and fall, and as a result is the nation's top returning Heisman vote-getter — he finished fourth. With another year to play, Quinn is Notre Dame's career leader in total yards, passing yards, completions and touchdown passes, among too many other records to mention.

Quinn's favorite receiver — All-American Jeff Samardzija — is back along with Rhema McKnight, the team's leading pass-grabber from 2003 and '04 who missed most of last year with an injury. Four starters are back in the offensive line, led by center John Sullivan and left tackle Ryan Harris. The unit excels in pass protection and created enough running room for tailback Darius Walker to rush for 1,196 yards and nine touchdowns. Walker returns for 2006 along with No. 2 rusher Travis Thomas.

2005 RESULTS: 9–3

RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 9 DEFENSE, NO KICKERS

Nine starters are back on a defense that gave up way too many big plays in '05 and laid an egg in the Fiesta Bowl — Ohio State's four touchdowns against the Irish covered 56, 68, 85 and 60 yards. Last year's top two tacklers — linebackers Corey Mays and Brandon Hoyte — need to be replaced. Safety Tom Zbikowski, end Victor Abiamiri, and tackles Trevor Laws and Derek Landri lead the defense into '06. The campaign to put increased pressure on opposing passers begins with Abiamiri, who notched 15 tackles behind the line and eight sacks last fall. Despite the return of cornerbacks Ambrose Wooden, the team's top returning tackler, and Mike Richardson, incoming freshmen Darrin Walls and Raeshon McNeil will get a good, long look as potential starters in fall practice.

Notre Dame opens the 2006 season at Georgia Tech, then will host Penn State and Michigan on the following two Saturdays. UCLA is a midseason home game, with the finale at USC.

Dubious record Notre Dame's 2005 defense surrendered 617 yards, the most in any game in school history, in the 34–20 Fiesta Bowl loss to Ohio State.

Playing to potential Over the three-year stretch from 2002-2004, Notre Dame scored 40 or more points in only two games. In 2005, the Irish reached or exceeded 40 points six times.

a.k.a. the Shark All-American Jeff Samardzija tied a Notre Dame record in 2005 with 77 catches and set new marks with 1,249 receiving yards and 15 touchdown receptions last fall.

3 USC TROJANS

Let's review the last four years at USC, shall we? A record of 48–4, including a 34-game winning streak. A still-active 27-game home winning streak. Four BCS Bowl appearances. Four AP Top 4 finishes. Four Pac-10 titles. Two national titles. And rivers of talent rolling in. Graduation and the lure of NFL riches stripped the USC offense of most of its lineup on offense, leaving only two linemen and the receivers. However, the two returning linemen — tackle Sam Baker and center Ryan Kalil — both earned All-America accolades in 2005 and will anchor another great unit in 2006, and the Trojan receiving corps, featuring All-American Dwayne Jarrett, is a showpiece. For a new quarterback to deliver the ball to them, coach Pete Carroll turns to junior John David Booty, although the Shreveport, La., native is coming off back surgery. Mark Sanchez is also in the the mix, but after running into some legal trouble in late April, his status is uncertain.

Tailback Hershel Dennis will miss his second straight campaign with torn knee ligaments, Desmond Reed also has a major knee issue, and Chauncey Washington, who is finally eligible, hasn't played since '03. Don't be surprised to find recruits Stafon Johnson and C.J. Gable sharing the job.

2005 RESULTS: 12–1 (8–0 PAC-10)

RETURNING STARTERS: 4 OFFENSE, 6 DEFENSE, PLACEKICKER

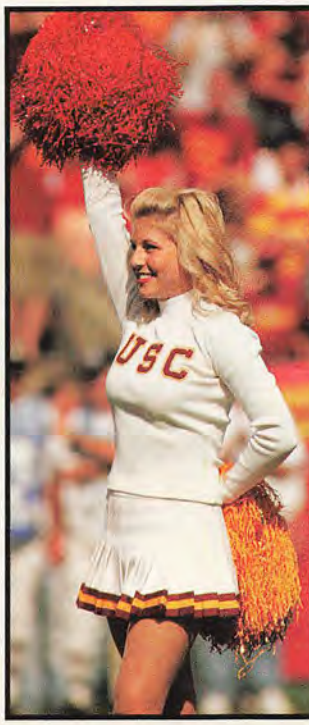
Carroll's specialty is defense, and the unit will be held together by the nation's top linebacking corps, with Oscar Lua, Rey Maualuga, Keith Rivers, Thomas Williams, Dallas Sartz and Brian Cushing all back in the fold. All-conference end Lawrence Jackson, with 10 sacks last fall, leads the way on the D-Line.

The Men of Troy travel to Arkansas to open the season, followed by a visit from Nebraska in Game 2. The late season slate shows consecutive home games against Oregon, California and Notre Dame before the finale at UCLA.

The streak USC's 34-game winning streak, which slammed to a halt in the 2006 Rose Bowl, is tied for sixth-longest in Division I history.

The streak part two Going into the 2006 Rose Bowl, USC had been ranked No. 1 in a record 33 straight AP polls.

'Tis better to receive The 2005 Trojans finished second nationally in turnover margin with a mark of plus-1.62 per game.



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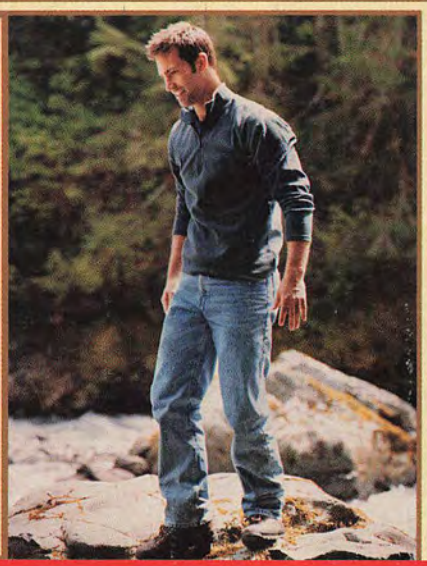

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4 OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

John Grieshop

Ohio State has a 34–20 thumping of resurgent Notre Dame in the 2006 Fiesta Bowl to propel it into the upcoming season. In said bowl game, Buckeye quarterback Troy Smith outperformed this year's Heisman favorite, Irish QB Brady Quinn, and it wasn't even close. Smith, a big-game, big-time quarterback, is now on the Heisman radar himself.

Wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. has the potential to join Smith in a two-man Heisman extravaganza like USC's Leinart-Bush duo of the last two years. In 2005, the electrifying Ginn scored four times on pass receptions, once on a run, once on a punt return and once on a kickoff return.

2005 RESULTS: 10–2 (7–1 BIG TEN)

RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 2 DEFENSE, PUNTER

Tailback Antonio Pittman ran for 1,331 yards last fall, averaging 5.5 per carry, and he will be pushed to the max this year by a pair of Wellses — sophomore Maurice and freshman Chris, the top high school running back in the nation last season. Two new starters are needed up front, but tackle Kirk Barton and guard T.J. Downing return on the right side. Left tackle Doug Datish is moving to center to make room for huge sophomore Alex Boone.

Tackles David Patterson and Quinn Pitcock are the only two starters back on defense. Larry Grant, who originally signed with Florida before spending last season at City College of San Francisco, could move right in at linebacker, where James Laurinaitis, John Kerr and Mike D'Andrea have all played extensively. Lawrence Wilson could make a splash as a sophomore at end, with high-potential youngsters Jamario O'Neal and Malcolm Jenkins filling two of the vacancies in the secondary.

After opening the 2006 slate against Northern Illinois, the Buckeyes pay a return visit to national champion Texas in Game 2. The Penn State (home) and Iowa (away) contests close out September. The Michigan game this season is in Columbus.

Stubborn Ohio State finished the 2005 season ranked No. 1 nationally in rushing defense, allowing only 73.4 yards per game.

Fumm-bell! Only two Division I-A teams — Oklahoma State and Florida International — fumbled the ball away more often (18 times each) last season than the Buckeyes (16).

Big-game player Buckeye quarterback Troy Smith has accounted for 723 total yards in his two starts against Michigan, and 408 yards in the 2006 Fiesta Bowl drubbing of Notre Dame.

FLORIDA GATORS 5

After Year 1 of the Urban Meyer coaching regime, the Gators were playing in January. And this was after a season that had some pitfalls until Meyer adjusted his spread option scheme at midseason to accommodate quarterback Chris Leak's dropback passing talents. Though top receiver Chad Jackson has split for the pros, Andre Caldwell and Dallas Baker make for some inviting downfield targets for the strong-armed Leak. Caldwell missed most of last season with a broken leg after catching 43 passes for 689 yards in 2004.

During the offseason, Meyer expressed chagrin over the situation at tailback, saying he'll play without one unless someone takes charge. The starter is DeShawn Wynn. All three of the backs who played significantly last fall are back, and Wynn, a senior who has run for 19 touchdowns over his career, could finish with a bang. But he'll have to do it behind an offensive line that returns only one starter — Steve Rissler, who is moving from guard to center.

2005 RESULTS: 9–3 (5–3 SEC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 5 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

The Gators will field the best defensive line in the SEC. End Jarvis Moss led the team with 11 tackles for a loss and 7.5 sacks, and he was only used in passing situations. Tackle Marcus Thomas broke through for 10.5 tackles behind the line. Florida is also blessed with two of the league's most talented linebackers in Earl Everett and Brandon Siler, the team's top two tacklers from a year ago. But as formidable as the defensive front appears, the secondary needs three new starters.

Alabama and LSU take on the Gators in the Swamp on consecutive midseason Saturdays, but Tennessee, Auburn, and Florida State are all away games.

Elite eight The 2006 Gators will play eight teams that appeared in 2005-06 bowl games.

Give and take Florida's turnover margin of plus-1.50 per game was third nationally.

Urbanization Meyer has won 81 percent of his games as a head coach at 48–11 over five years, and he has never come close to a losing record.

Brad Schloss

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6 WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

Fresh off an 11–1 campaign and a rousing Sugar Bowl win over Southeastern Conference champion Georgia, the Mountaineers are riding the crest of a wave that could carry them through a virtually made-to-order schedule clean into January. A midseason trip to Louisville is the most imposing challenge. But it's more than just the schedule — sophomore sensations Pat White and Steve Slaton return at quarterback and running back, respectively, and they again will be operating behind a line spearheaded by first-team All-Big East center Dan Mozes.

Slaton, the 2005 Big East Rookie of the Year, and White each finished in the league's top six in rushing, with Slaton netting 1,128 yards at 5.5 per carry, with 17 touchdowns. At 245 pounds, fullback Owen Schmitt puts some thump in the running attack, averaging 7.9 yards on 48 carries last fall.

Adam Bednarik started the first half of the season at quarterback before injuries derailed him, opening the door for White. Bednarik, who completed 73 percent of his throws with four touchdown tosses before exiting, is also back along with the top six pass catchers from a year ago. Brandon Myles paced the group, averaging a hair under 16 yards on 34 receptions.

2005 RESULTS: 11–1 (7–0 BIG EAST)

RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, PLACEKICKER

The defense has been somewhat harder hit by graduation, with not one but two first-team All-Big East safeties — Mike Lorello and Jahmile Addae — leading the parade out of Morgantown. Linebackers Kevin McLee, a first-team All-Big East selection in 2005, and Jay Henry, and tackle Keilen Dykes, the team's top sack man, will man the front lines while coach Rich Rodriguez settles on four new starters in his five-man secondary.

About that trip to Louisville on Nov. 2: This will be the conference's showcase game of the season. Resurgent Rutgers in the Dec. 2 finale should not be overlooked.

John Grieshop

New standard Freshman quarterback Pat White set a Big East single-game record for quarterbacks with 220 rushing yards in the Pittsburgh contest.

Conference kingpin West Virginia has won or shared the last three Big East championships.

Grounded The 2005 Mountaineers led the Big East in both rushing offense (272.4) and rushing defense (109.7).

Layne Murdoch

7 TEXAS LONGHORNS

Texas is coming off its fourth national title, a perfect 13–0 season and a 41–38 Rose Bowl win over USC. The Trojan defense didn't have an answer for Vince Young, and now Young is gone. But let's not forget that the Longhorns would have been a great team even without him.

When Ryan Perrilloux jilted Mack Brown and Company on Signing Day 2005, he left the Horns in a predicament at quarterback for 2006, and Young's departure for the pros with a year of eligibility left didn't help matters. Brown probably will turn to a true freshman — *Parade* All-American Jevan Snead — at quarterback. Colt McCoy paid his dues as a freshman last year, running the scout team while redshirting, and provides a sound backup plan.

2005 RESULTS: 13–0 (8–0 BIG 12)

RETURNING STARTERS: 5 OFFENSE, 7 DEFENSE, NO KICKERS

Jamaal Charles is back at tailback after netting 878 yards at an eye-popping 7.4 per carry, with 11 touchdowns. And he accomplished this while sharing starting duties with Selvin Young, who also returns with 2,104 career all-purpose yards under his belt. Ramonce Taylor tied Vince Young for the team-high with 12 touchdown runs last year, averaging 6.8 per carry. Taylor will also see time at wide receiver, having caught 27 passes, three for scores, in '05. Speaking of wide receivers, Limas Sweed, Billy Pittman and Quan Cosby all return after combining for 85 catches with 12 touchdowns and 18.4 yards per grab.

The Longhorns always can boast some of the most formidable lines in the game. All-America tackle Justin Blalock anchors the O-Line heading into the 2006 campaign. On defense, ends Brian Robison and Tim Crowder, who combined for 24 tackles for a loss and 10 sacks last fall, and tackle Frank Okam all return to their starting assignments, along with enviable depth. Michael Griffin led the national champions in tackles from his safety spot, and is a steadying influence in the back seven.

Texas' title defense gets an early test on Sept. 9, when Ohio State comes to Austin. After that, it's clear sailing until the Red River Shootout on Oct. 7 and trips to Nebraska and Texas Tech later in the month.

And counting Texas now enjoys the nation's longest winning streak at 20 games.

Beating the best The 2005 Longhorns defeated three teams ranked in the Top 10 at the time the games were played — No. 1 USC, No. 4 Ohio State and No. 10 Texas Tech.

Can't top this Texas has posted the best record in Division I-A over the last five years at 56–8.

John Medina

8 CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

If USC has a serious challenger in the Pac-10, it's these guys. California returns players who accounted for 98 percent of its rushing yards, 99 percent of its passing yards, 92 percent of its receiving yards, 46 of 49 offensive touchdowns, 27 of its 32 sacks and 12 of its 15 interceptions from last season.

Coach Jeff Tedford will turn back to Nate Longshore as his quarterback. Longshore, a 2003 *Parade* All-American who redshirted in 2004, opened last season as the starter before an ankle injury in Game 1 finished him for the year. Joe Ayoob, who started most of the way, and Steve Levy, who took over just before the end of the season and led the Bears to victory in both his starts, also return. Redshirt freshman Kyle Reed is in the mix, as well.

2005 RESULTS: 8–4 (4–4 PAC-10)

RETURNING STARTERS: 7 OFFENSE, 6 DEFENSE, PLACEKICKER

With tailbacks Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett both back for '06, one football just doesn't seem like enough. Lynch roared for 1,246 yards at 6.4 per carry; Forsett netted 999 yards, averaging 7.6. The two combined for 16 rushing touchdowns. And all of the top receivers are back, led by DeSean Jackson with 38 catches, seven for scores, in 2005.

The offensive line has taken some graduation hits, but returnees Scott Smith and Erik Robertson should solidify the unit. The defensive line is the nation's best, with four regulars and six of the top seven contributors back. Ends Nu'u Tafisi and Phillip Mbakogu and All-America tackle Brandon Mebane return to wreak yet more havoc in opponents' backfields.

Linebacker Desmond Bishop is back after leading the 2005 Bears in tackles, while Daymeion Hughes, a first-team All-Pac-10 returnee, and Tim Mixon are as fine a pair of cornerbacks as there is in the league.

California opens its 2006 campaign in Knoxville, taking on the Tennessee Vols, and closes at home in the Big Game against Stanford. But the Nov. 18 clash at USC could be even bigger.

Ground attack The 2005 Golden Bears finished ninth in the nation in rushing with 235 yards per game.

Three-year mark Cal's 26 wins over the last three years comprise the best three-year stretch since the 27 wins the Golden Bears posted in 1949-51.

Lighting it up Each of coach Jeff Tedford's four California teams has averaged at least 32 points per game.

9 AUBURN TIGERS

The dream backfield of Jason Campbell, Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams left en masse following the 2004 season, leading to some dire 2005 preseason scenarios. So what happened? The '05 Tigers averaged more rushing yards (194.1), points (32.2), and first downs (21.4) than in '04. Brandon Cox inherited the quarterback job from Campbell and looked like he knew what he was doing right out of the gate. He finished second in the SEC in both passing yardage and passing efficiency. Running back Kenny Irons took a little longer to get untracked, but he ended up leading the conference in rushing with 1,293 yards and 13 touchdowns. In his first year eligible after transferring from South Carolina, Irons landed on the 2005 All-SEC first team. Brad Lester, who averaged 6.5 yards on 52 rushing attempts also returns.

There will be some unfamiliar (though more pronounceable) names in the receiving corps, though Courtney Taylor returns for his senior year with 99 career receptions, tied for sixth-most in school history.

2005 RESULTS: 9–3 (7–1 SEC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 5 OFFENSE, 6 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

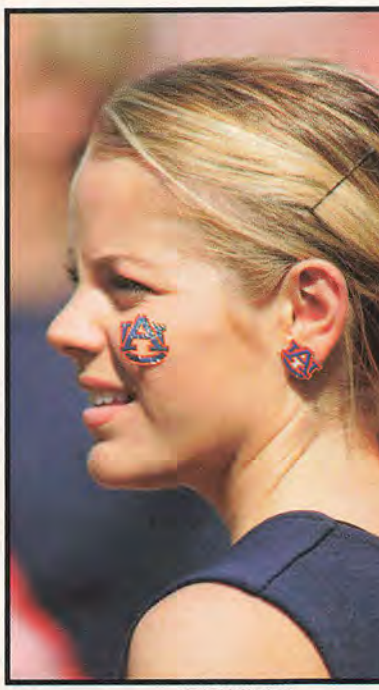
The leading tackler on the team last year was safety Will Herring, and he is moving to linebacker for 2005 in part to make room for Tristan Davis at safety. Davis, who played both ways last fall, is considered the best athlete on the team. He ran for 162 yards against Kentucky, including a 75-yard touchdown run, and notched four tackles on the season. He is the new free safety with David Irons and Jonathan Wilhite returning at the corners. The front four will be led by top-flight ends Marquies Gunn and Quentin Groves.

Auburn will host their nearest competition in the West Division — LSU — in Game 3. Florida and Georgia are also home games for the 2006 Tigers. The Alabama game is slated for Tuscaloosa this year.

League dominance Auburn has the best record in SEC games over the last six years at 36–12 (.750) and has won or shared five of the last six SEC West division titles.

The top three Auburn's overall record of 22–3 (.880) over the last two years ranks third nationally, behind only USC (25–1, .962) and Texas (24–1, .960).

Not by air Auburn tied for second nationally in 2005 by allowing only eight touchdown passes all year.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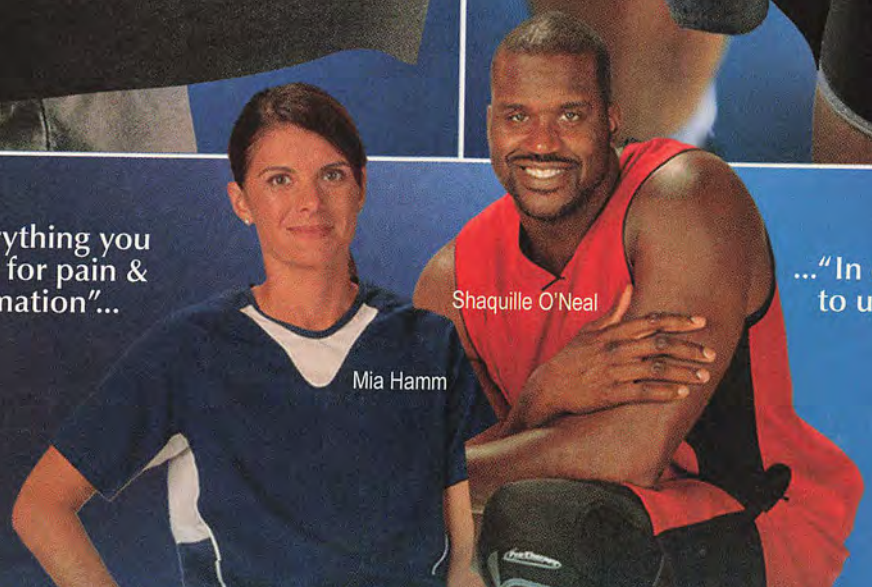

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10 LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

Quarterback Brian Brohm is back after a 2,883-yard, 19-touchdown passing sophomore year despite missing the last two games of the season with a knee injury. Brohm completed 69 percent of his throws and ranked second nationally in passing efficiency. Hunter Cantwell started the final two games of 2005 in Brohm's absence and performed well, winning at Connecticut in the regular-season finale and throwing for 216 yards and three touchdowns in the Gator Bowl loss to Virginia Tech. Cantwell got most of the reps in spring practice while Brohm was rehabbing the knee.

The Cardinals are as deep at tailback as any team in the nation. Michael Bush is back after netting 1,143 yards at 5.6 per carry in '05, and finishing second nationally to USC's LenDale White with 23 rushing touchdowns. Kolby Smith managed 523 yards and six scores while battling through injuries, while George Stripling also returns after a 621-yard, seven-touchdown campaign.

2005 RESULTS: 9–3 (5–2 BIG EAST)

RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 7 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Stripling averaged a whopping 7.9 yards per carry, and if you like averages, the team's top returning receiver, Mario Urrutia, averaged 21.5 yards on 37 catches in 2005.

Defensive end Elvis Dumervil took his NCAA-high 20 sacks with him to the NFL, and four-year starter Travis Leffew leaves a giant hole at offensive left tackle. But the Cardinals should once again be strong in the trenches with 2005 Freshman All-America center Eric Wood anchoring the offensive line and senior tackle Amobi Okoye leading the defensive charge.

Linebackers Nate Harris and Abe Brown return after combining for 20 tackles behind the line last fall, and all four starters return in the secondary.

A Sept. 16 matchup with Miami in Papa John's Cardinal Stadium could be an early roadblock. Then there appears to be smooth sailing until West Virginia comes calling on Nov. 2. The open date the previous week could be a real blessing.

Potent offense Louisville finished the 2005 season ranked ninth nationally in total offense at 482 yards per game and third in scoring with 43.4 points per game.

On the map In three years under head coach Bobby Petrino, the Cardinals are 29–8 and have won nine or more games every season.

Star power In 2005, Louisville provided the Big East with both its Offensive Player of the Year in quarterback Brian Brohm, and its Defensive Player of the Year in end Elvis Dumervil.

11 LSU TIGERS

The last two games LSU played were both in the Georgia Dome, and neither one was a close game. Georgia thumped the Tigers 34–14 in the SEC Championship Game, then first-year coach Les Miles' squad responded with a 40–3 demolition of Miami in the Peach Bowl.

The victory over the Hurricanes was accomplished with backup Matt Flynn subbing for injured starter JaMarcus Russell at quarterback. Russell still enters 2006 as the starter after completing 61 percent of his passes for 2,443 yards and 15 touchdowns last year. But the quarterback situation is a healthy one after Flynn was 13-of-22 for 196 yards and ran for 39 more yards, earning game MVP honors with his performance against the Miami defense.

2005 RESULTS: 11–2 (7–1 SEC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 4 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, DUAL-PURPOSE KICKER

Leading rusher Joseph Addai must be replaced, but Alley Broussard, who ran for 867 yards and 10 scores in '04, and Justin Vincent are familiar names. They will keep the ground game rolling along if their knees hold up. If not, freshman Keiland Williams will get a shot.

The receiving corps is the jewel of the LSU offense. Dwayne Bowe averaged 17.3 yards on 41 receptions with nine touchdowns last fall, and is the leader of a group that includes other long-ball threats such as Craig Davis and Early Doucet.

The Tigers have sustained serious graduation hits on both lines, but the replacements always seem to be there. Claude Wroten and Kyle Williams both were first-team All-SEC defensive tackles a year ago and are now drawing paychecks in the NFL.

There are no better defensive secondaries than LSU's, with LaRon Landry back for his fourth year at free safety headlining the group.

The SEC West could be settled early with LSU's trip to Auburn on Sept. 16. The Florida game in early October is also on the road.

Access denied LSU finished the 2005 season ranked third in the nation in scoring defense (14.2 ppg).

Almost a hundred The Tigers' minus-.69 turnover margin last season ranked 99th nationally.

Three-down territory LSU finished second in Division I-A last fall in third down defense, allowing opponents a mere 28.2-percent conversion rate.

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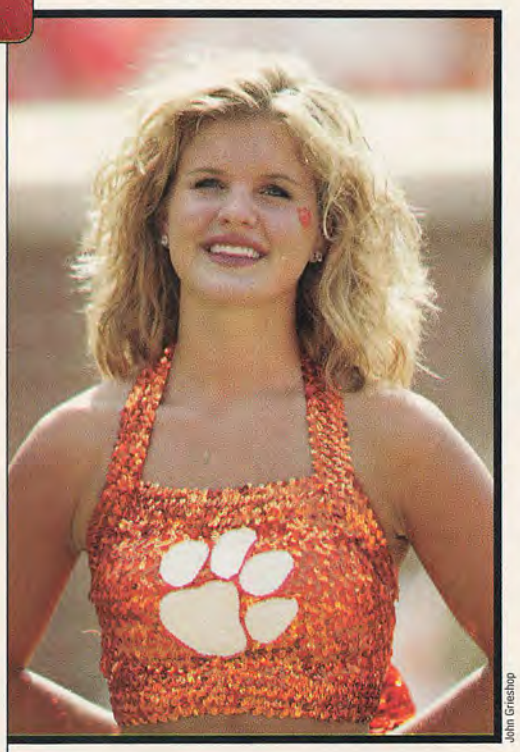


John Grieshop

12 CLEMSON TIGERS

Clemson enters 2006 with some momentum in the form of a four-game winning streak, and wins in six of its last seven games. There are eight starters back on offense, but one of them isn't the quarterback. Charlie Whitehurst has turned the reins over to senior Will Proctor, who completed 58 percent of his tosses with three TDs and no INTs last season.

Proctor has a first-rate receiving corps to work with, led by Chansi Stuckey and Aaron Kelly, who combined for 111 catches last fall. But mostly he will be handing off to running back James Davis, the 2005 ACC Rookie of the Year. As a true freshman, Davis ran for 879 yards at well over five yards a carry, with nine scores. He was the MVP of Clemson's 19–10 Champs Sports Bowl win over Colorado, when he ran for 150 yards against a Buffalo defense ranked 11th in the nation against the run. Reggie Merriweather picked up 715 yards on the ground himself last year and has 1,441 for his career, and he's back too. And all five starters return on the offensive line, spearheaded by All-ACC guard Roman Fry.

2005 RESULTS: 8–4 (4–4 ACC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 7 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

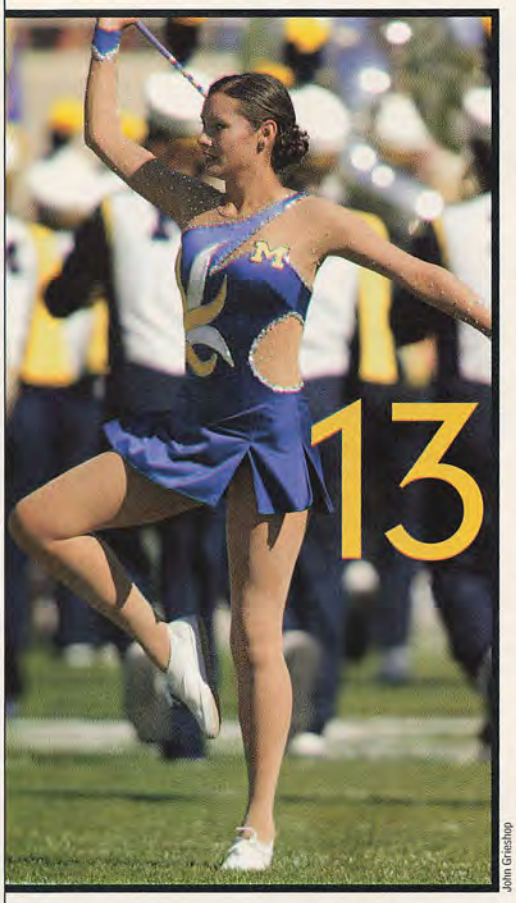
All three starting linebackers — Anthony Waters, Nick Watkins and Tramaine Billie — return after finishing 1-2-3 on the team in tackles. Waters, who lines up in the middle, broke through for 13.5 tackles behind the line and batted down seven passes. End Gaines Adams notched 15 tackles for a loss and 9.5 sacks, and broke up nine passes.

Bowden Bowl VIII, set for Sept. 16 in Tallahassee, could clear up the picture in the Atlantic Division early on. The Georgia Tech game at Clemson and the trip to Virginia Tech come five days apart — Oct. 21 and 26.

Ball protection Clemson lost only five fumbles all last season, the fourth-fewest in the nation.

Standing invitation In his nine years as a head coach (including two at Tulane), Tommy Bowden has yet to have a team not finish the regular season bowl eligible.

Fond farewell Charlie Whitehurst leaves Clemson in possession of 46 school records, including the marks for passing yards, touchdown passes and total offense.



John Grieshop

13 MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

In his second year in the Maize and Blue, Chad Henne completed a lower percentage of his passes for fewer yards and fewer touchdowns than he did as a freshman. Call it the absence of Braylon Edwards to throw to, or just the sophomore jinx. But still, Henne's 2005 numbers of 223-for-382 for 2,526 yards and a touchdown-to-interception margin of 23-8 are nothing to sneeze at.

The team loses its top receiver again — this time it's Jason Avant — but wide receivers Mario Manningham and Steve Breaston and tight end Tyler Ecker provide Henne with a veteran pass-catching contingent. After setting the Big Ten on fire as a true freshman with 1,455 rushing yards, running back Mike Hart battled through injuries last year, missing four games entirely, but still rushed for a team-high 662 yards. Last year's true freshman, Kevin Grady, picked up the slack and led the team with five rushing touchdowns.

2005 RESULTS: 7–5 (5–3 BIG TEN)

RETURNING STARTERS: 6 OFFENSE, 8 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Jake Long made second-team All-Big Ten as a freshman two years ago but spent most of last season recuperating from offseason shoulder surgery. He made the move in the spring from right tackle to left tackle and again anchors the offensive line, along with center Mark Bihl.

End Lamarr Woodley, tackle Alan Branch, and linebackers David Harris and Prescott Burgess solidify the defensive front. Harris led the Wolverines in tackles last year with 88. Woodley registered team highs with 14 tackles for a loss and seven sacks. The team's top pass interceptor, cornerback Leon Hall, also returns after picking off four passes and is one of three returning starters in the secondary.

The 2006 schedule opens with Vanderbilt and Central Michigan in the Big House before hitting the road for the matchup with the Fighting Irish. The Wolverines play host to Michigan State and Iowa in October. The Ohio State contest is in Columbus this year.

No flags Michigan was the least penalized team in the nation, drawing 4.0 flags per game.

Lucky seven In two career bowl games, Chad Henne has thrown seven touchdown passes.

Branching out Michigan defensive tackle Alan Branch set a school postseason record with five tackles behind the line in last season's Alamo Bowl.

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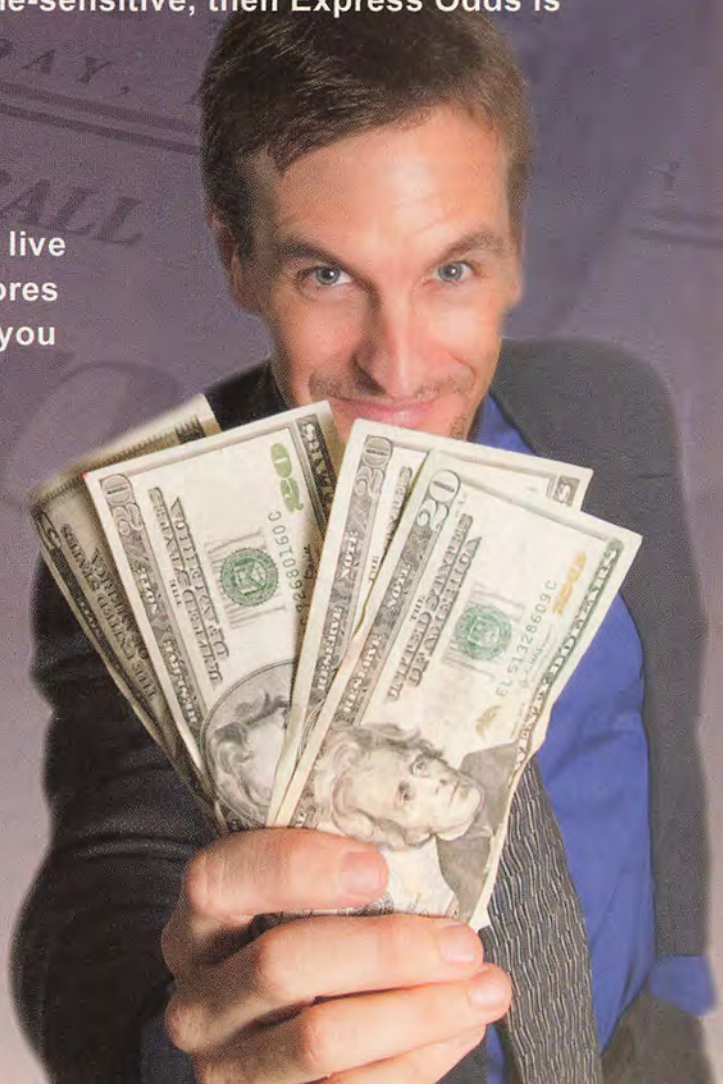

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14 MIAMI HURRICANES

Bill Wood

There was a shakeup — no, let's make that, earthquake, on the Miami coaching staff following the 40–3 embarrassment at the hands of LSU in the Peach Bowl, when four top assistants were shown the door. Also gone are leading receiver Sinorice Moss, four offensive line starters and kick returner extraordinaire Devin Hester.

Kyle Wright begins his junior season under the eyes of first-year offensive coordinator Rich Olson, who has spent the last 12 years coaching in the NFL, and new quarterbacks coach Todd Berry. Wright posted good numbers (59 percent completion average, 2,403 yards, 18 touchdowns to 10 interceptions) for a first-time starter, but he is capable of much more. High-potential wide receivers Ryan Moore, Lance Leggett and Darnell Jenkins also need to step it up. Tight End Greg Olsen might be the best pass catcher on the team; he leads the returnees with 31 catches in 2005.

2005 RESULTS: 9–3 (6–2 ACC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 5 OFFENSE, 6 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Tyrone Moss ran for 701 yards and 12 touchdowns before a knee injury felled him after eight games. The prognosis is good for his 100 percent return. Also returning is Charlie Jones, who started the rest of the way and netted 507 yards. A new offensive line has to be assembled around returning center Anthony Wollschlager.

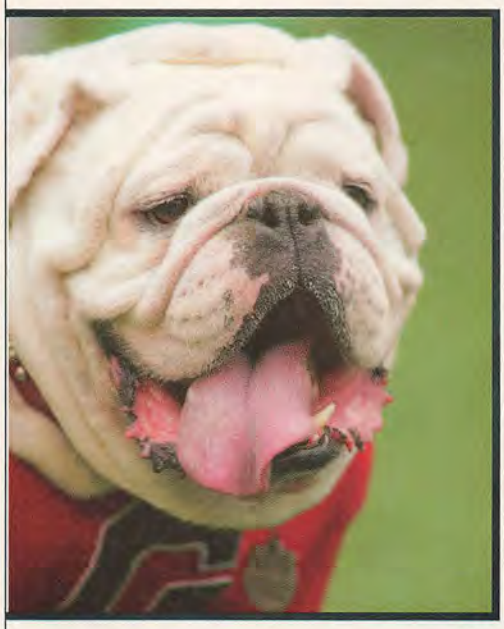
The Canes boasts perhaps the best pair of safeties in the nation. Brandon Meriweather led the Canes in tackles with 115, including 13 for a loss, and Kenny Phillips started 11 games as a true freshman and was a unanimous freshman All-American. Opposing offenses will have to game plan for Phillips for at least the next two years. End Baraka Atkins and linebacker Tavares Gooden are the bell-ringers up front.

The Hurricanes will open 2006 at home to Florida State on Monday, Sept. 4, then travel to Louisville in Week 3. Later in the season, on consecutive weekends, come games at Georgia Tech and home to Virginia Tech.

Winners Since 2000, Miami has the highest winning percentage of all Division I-A schools at .865 (64–10), having recorded at least nine wins in each of the six seasons.

Point taken Miami placekicker Jon Peattie leads all current players nationally in scoring with 272 points over his first three seasons.

Score no more Miami's defense in 2005 allowed fewer touchdowns (19) than any other in the nation last year except Alabama's (15).



GEORGIA BULDOGS 15

Depending on which service you subscribe to, any one of three 2006 quarterback recruits could have been No. 1 at the position. And Georgia's Matthew Stafford is one of them. Stafford enrolled at Georgia for the spring, practiced with the team and could be calling signals from day one. But he'll have to push Joe Tereshinski, of the Georgia Tereshinskis, out of the way first. Tereshinski is a senior with six game appearances and one start last season, and he isn't going to let his last chance slip away without a fight.

There is not a deeper and more varied tailback contingent anywhere in America than the one in Athens. Thomas Brown is the returning starter, having run for 736 yards last fall. As a freshman backup in 2004, he netted 875. The starter that year was Danny Ware, a true freshman who rushed for 724 yards. Both are now juniors with a combined 2,827 career yards. And Kregg Lumpkin, potentially the most electrifying of the three, finished last year strong after missing 2004 with a knee injury.

Tight end Leonard Pope split for the pros and will be a load to replace, but the most productive of last year's wideouts, Mohamed Massaquoi, is back. Tackle Daniel Inman and center Nick Jones are still around to steady a mostly rebuilt offensive line.

2005 RESULTS: 10–3 (6–2 SEC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 4 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

First-team All-SEC end Quentin Moses returns after chalking up 20.5 tackles for a loss last season, but he is the only returning starter in the line, as is rover Tra Battle in the secondary. Six new defensive starters will be positioned around the linebacking corps that returns in force from last fall.

The conference slate starts with a trip to South Carolina in Game 2, ends with three consecutive road trips to Florida, Kentucky and Auburn, and in between features a home game against Tennessee.

Flying high Over the last four seasons, Georgia has averaged 11 wins per year.

The Richt effect Since Mark Richt arrived as coach in 2001, the Bulldogs have won two SEC titles. Before then, they hadn't won the SEC in two decades.

Fast company Richt is one of only 10 coaches in Division I-A history to reach 50 wins in his first five years — he is 52–13.

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Rushing Yards Under 100 = **5 point**
Every Sack = **1 point**
Every Interception = **1 point**

BONUS Points—Team
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❑ Arkansas	$740,000	❑ Florida International	$300,000	❑ Miami	$1,590,000	❑ Oklahoma St	$370,000	❑ Toledo	$980,000
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❑ Auburn	$1,620,000	❑ Georgia	$1,430,000	❑ Michigan St	$950,000	❑ Penn State	$1,360,000	❑ Tulsa	$310,000
❑ Ball State	$300,000	❑ Georgia Tech	$1,150,000	❑ Middle Tenn St	$300,000	❑ Pittsburgh	$710,000	❑ UCLA	$1,250,000
❑ Baylor	$300,000	❑ Hawaii	$500,000	❑ Minnesota	$1,000,000	❑ Purdue	$810,000	❑ Utah	$970,000
❑ Boise State	$1,060,000	❑ Houston	$300,000	❑ Mississippi	$330,000	❑ Rice	$300,000	❑ Utah State	$300,000
❑ Boston College	$1,230,000	❑ Idaho	$300,000	❑ Mississippi St	$400,000	❑ Rutgers	$460,000	❑ Vanderbilt	$300,000
❑ Bowling Green	$610,000	❑ Illinois	$300,000	❑ Missouri	$880,000	❑ San Diego St	$300,000	❑ Virginia	$710,000
❑ Buffalo	$300,000	❑ Indiana	$400,000	❑ Navy	$880,000	❑ San Jose St	$300,000	❑ Virginia Tech	$1,360,000
❑ BYU	$840,000	❑ Iowa	$1,320,000	❑ Nebraska	$1,260,000	❑ South Carolina	$1,210,000	❑ Wake Forest	$850,000
❑ California	$1,340,000	❑ Iowa State	$1,190,000	❑ Nevada	$540,000	❑ South Florida	$300,000	❑ Washington	$360,000
❑ Central Florida	$820,000	❑ Kansas	$440,000	❑ Nevada - Las Vegas	$300,000	❑ Southern Cal	$1,810,000	❑ Washington St	$300,000
❑ Central Michigan	$300,000	❑ Kansas State	$450,000	❑ New Mexico	$310,000	❑ Southern Methodist	$300,000	❑ West Virginia	$1,710,000
❑ Cincinnati	$300,000	❑ Kent	$300,000	❑ New Mexico St	$300,000	❑ Southern Miss	$680,000	❑ Western Michigan	$300,000
❑ Clemson	$1,330,000	❑ Kentucky	$300,000	❑ North Carolina	$480,000	❑ Stanford	$620,000	❑ Wisconsin	$1,120,000
❑ Colorado	$940,000	❑ Louisiana Lafayette	$300,000	❑ North Carolina St	$780,000	❑ Syracuse	$300,000	❑ Wyoming	$380,000
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16 IOWA HAWKEYES

The concussion quarterback Drew Tate suffered in Game 2 against Iowa State last year, along with breaking in four first-time starters on the defensive line, precipitated a bit of a stumble for the Hawkeyes early on, after a preseason of such high expectations. It didn't take Tate all season to round back into form, however. For the season he completed 62 percent of his passes for almost 3,000 yards and 22 touchdowns with seven interceptions. Tate's backup, Jason Manson, got some meaningful snaps in game action and was 24-of-48.

One thing Iowa has going into 2006 it didn't have going into 2005 is a clear picture at running back. Albert Young is back after churning out 1,334 rushing yards last season, including more than 1,000 yards in Big Ten games to lead the conference. He passed the century mark in seven straight games. With Young, Damian Sims and Shonn Greene, the team's top three rushers are back from '05.

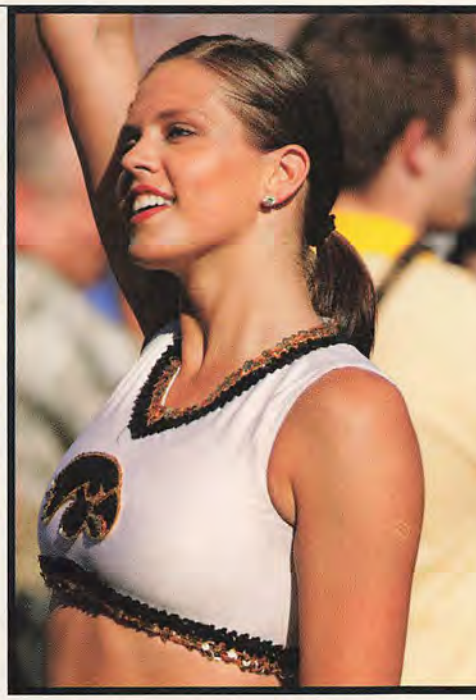
2005 RESULTS: 7–5 (5–3 BIG TEN)

RETURNING STARTERS: 7 OFFENSE, 7 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Coach Kirk Ferentz will have to replace his top two wide receivers, Clinton Solomon and Ed Hinkel, but tight end Scott Chandler led the team in receptions last year with 47. Still Solomon and Hinkel's seven touchdown catches apiece will have to be accounted for somehow. Three-game starter Herb Grigsby will take one of the spots. Guard Mike Jones and center Mike Elgin spearhead a formidable offensive line.

The defensive line, returning en masse, features All-Big Ten end Kenny Iwebema and 2005 Freshman All-America tackle Mitch King. Outside linebacker Edmond Miles and safeties Marcus Paschal and Miguel Merrick will steady things in the back seven, where linebackers Chad Greenway and Abdul Hodge and two four-year starting cornerbacks all have to be replaced.

Iowa State appears to be the high point of an otherwise non-challenging out-of-conference schedule. Ohio State comes to Kinnick Stadium for the Sept. 30 contest. The Michigan game this year is in Ann Arbor on Oct. 21.



Gotcha covered: Iowa led the nation last fall in kickoff coverage, allowing a mere 14.9 yards per return.

What a run: The Hawkeyes have put together the greatest four-year run in school history (38–12 in 2002-05).

Happy New Year: Iowa is one of only four schools, along with USC, Georgia and Florida State, to play in January bowl games each of the last four years.

17 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

The 2005 All-ACC team had no Seminoles on the first team. That should change this year, starting at quarterback. Drew Weatherford completed 59 percent of his passes for 3,208 yards and 18 touchdowns and also ran for three scores.

Weatherford won't be hurting for targets, with Chris Davis and Greg Carr both returning. Davis led the '05 Noles with 51 catches. Carr, at 6'6", proved to be the big-play man, posting team highs with 20.6 yards per reception and nine touchdowns.

Lorenzo Booker returns for his senior year at tailback after leading FSU in rushing with 552 yards and four TD runs, and he wasn't even the starter. Booker also posted touchdown catches of 71 and 57 yards. The offensive line dealt with injuries last year and, despite the return of three starters, still is thin. Tackle David Obermyer and guards Jacky Claude and Cory Niblock return to their posts, Mario Henderson finished last season at left tackle, and junior college transfer Shannon Boatman is a welcome addition.

2005 RESULTS: 8–5 (5–3 ACC)

RETURNING STARTERS: 5 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, KICKERS

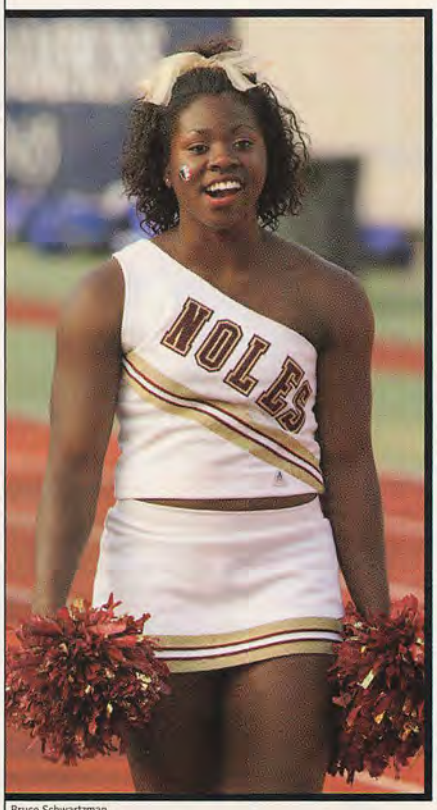
The graduation of end Kamerion Wimbley and tackle Brodrick Bunkley might take some of the starch out of a fierce pass rush. End Darrell Burston and tackle Andre Fluellen will try to pick up the slack after combining for 12.5 tackles behind the line last fall. Hard-hitting two-year starter Buster Davis is back at middle linebacker and is the linchpin of the defense. Davis and speedy corner Tony Carter are the only returning starters in the back seven.

The 2006 schedule begins with a Monday Night game at Miami on Sept. 4 and ends with a visit from Florida on Nov. 25.

Air ball The 2005 Seminoles led the ACC in passing offense at 283 yards per game.

Incoming! The Noles ranked third nationally last year in tackles for loss with 9.7 per game, and seventh in sacks with 3.46 per game.

Bright future There were 27 true and redshirt freshmen who saw game action last year for Florida State, and still there are only six scholarship seniors on the 2006 projected two-deep.



Bruce Schwartzman

Iowa: Courtland Richards

18. TCU HORNED FROGS

2005 RESULTS: 11–1 (8–0 MOUNTAIN WEST)
RETURNING STARTERS: 6 OFFENSE, 9 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

The expression "embarrassment of riches" was coined with the 2006 TCU running back depth chart in mind.

Seniors Robert Merrill and Lonta Hobbs have run for well over 5,000 career yards between them. Each surpassed 1,000 yards as freshmen. Merrill led the team with 911 last year while Hobbs spent most of the year on the shelf with a groin injury. Sophomore Aaron Brown ran for 758 yards as a freshman last year, led the MWC's top 10 rushers with 5.9 per carry and was the conference Freshman of the Year.

At linebacker, Jason Phillips and Robert Henson were the top two tacklers on the team last year as freshmen and added 8.5 tackles for a loss apiece. Phillips and David Hawthorne, who also returns for 2006, were the starters, with Henson as their top backup.

There are three All-MWC first team returnees in the trenches: offensive tackle Herbert Taylor and defensive ends Chase Ortiz and Tommy Blake. Blake and Ortiz combined for 27.5 tackles for a loss and 16 sacks last fall. And Jeff Ballard is 8–0 as the Frogs' starting quarterback.

The meat of the 2006 schedule comes early, with Texas Tech and BYU both visiting Amon G. Carter Stadium in September and a trip to Utah on Oct. 5.

Streaking TCU owns the nation's second-longest winning streak at 10 games, behind only national champion Texas' 20.

The champs The 2005 Horned Frogs won the school's first outright conference title since 1958.

Topping the charts TCU's turnover margin of plus-1.75 per game led the nation last year.

19. OREGON DUCKS

2005 RESULTS: 10–2 (7–1 PAC-10)
RETURNING STARTERS: 6 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf are listed Nos. 1 and 1A at quarterback entering 2006. Dixon's skills are simply better suited to the spread option, now entering its second year as Oregon's offensive modus operandi. Dixon was a 66-percent passer and threw for six touchdowns and three INTs, and won all three games he started at the end of the regular season.

The graduation of Terrence Whitehead leaves the tailback job in the capable hands of Jonathan Stewart, who led the nation in kickoff returns last fall as a freshman with a 33.7-yard average and two touchdowns. He added six more scores running from scrimmage.

Six receivers return who finished in double digits in catches in 2005, and all five starters return to an offensive line that improved its sacks-allowed total from 41 to 20 between 2004 and '05.

Tackle Haloti Ngata is virtually irreplaceable from the defensive front, but ends Matt Toeaina and Darius Sanders return after combining for 15 tackles behind the line. Patrick Chung and J.D. Nelson comprise one of the finest safety duos in the Pac-10.

Mike Bellotti, the dean of Pac-10 coaches, will know how good his team is before October starts, with games against Oklahoma and at Arizona State slated for September. USC and Oregon State are November road trips.

Air attack Oregon finished 2005 with the nation's eighth-most productive passing offense at 304.5 yards per game.

Thievery Oregon's defense intercepted 23 passes last year, good for second place in Division I-A.

Second and trying harder During Mike Bellotti's 11 years as head man in Eugene, Oregon has posted the second-most wins (90) of any team in the Pac-10.

20. TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

2005 RESULTS: 5–6 (3–5 SEC)
RETURNING STARTERS: 4 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

After earning acclaim for his passing as a freshman in 2004, Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge regressed markedly in 2005. But with noted quarterback guru David Cutcliffe back on the Hill as offensive coordinator, Ainge will be back on track in short order.

Even before Gerald Riggs Jr. went down with an injury at midseason, freshman Arian Foster was already running harder than any other back on the team. Despite starting only the last five games of the season, Foster rambled for 879 yards and five touchdowns, both team highs, and topped the 100-yard mark in all five of his starts. Robert Meachem, Jayson Swain and Bret Smith comprise a veteran wideout corps, having combined for 77 catches last fall.

First-team All-SEC tackle Arron Sears anchors an otherwise rebuilt offensive line. The defensive line likewise returns only one starter — tackle Justin Harrell. In fact, Harrell is the lone ranger in the entire front seven. The secondary, however, returns intact, with cornerback Jonathan Wade and free safety Jonathan Hefney particularly disruptive to an opponent's passing game.

Florida and LSU both come to Knoxville this year, with the midseason game at Georgia looming large. The visit from Cal for the Sept. 2 opener should generate national interest.

Decade of dominance Over the last 10 years, Tennessee is the winningest team in the SEC at 95–30 (.760), ranking fifth nationally.

More winning numbers After 14 years, Phillip Fulmer owns the highest winning percentage of any active coach in Division I-A with at least 10 years on the job at .776 (128–37).

Not if by land Tennessee's 2005 rushing defense ranked second nationally, allowing only 82.5 yards per game and 2.5 per attempt.

21. VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

2005 RESULTS: 11–2 (7–1 ACC)
RETURNING STARTERS: 4 OFFENSE, 6 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

First-team All-ACC quarterback Marcus Vick is gone, leaving little experience at the position. Sophomores Sean Glennon and Cory Holt and redshirt freshman Ike Whitaker will continue to battle it out for the job into the fall.

Brandon Ore sat out the spring to rehab a shoulder injury, but he is the top running back in camp, having run for 647 yards at 5.9 per carry with six touchdowns last fall. The wide receiver corps should be sensational, with the team's top three pass-catchers from 2005 — David Clowney, Josh Morgan and Eddie Royal — all back for '06.

The offensive line returns two starters, while defensive end Chris Ellis is the lone returning starter on the D-Line. All-America cornerback Jimmy Williams will be tough to replace, but rover Aaron Rouse led the Hokies in interceptions last year with four, and he's back.

Vince Hall and Xavier Adibi are active, disruptive linebackers, combining for 15.5 tackles for a loss and four interceptions in 2005. Hall and Adibi each scored on interception returns.

Georgia Tech and Clemson both play at Blacksburg this season, Clemson on Thursday night, Oct. 26. Nine days later comes the Virginia Tech-Miami clash in the Orange Bowl.

Chasing the legends Other than Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden, Frank Beamer has won more games than any other active coach in Division I-A, with 188 and counting.

Winning with D The 2005 Hokies led the nation in total defense, allowing only 247.6 yards per game, and were second in scoring defense at 12.9 points per game.

Gone bowling Virginia Tech is one of only four schools that has appeared in each of the last 13 postseasons.

22. TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

2005 RESULTS: 9–3 (6–2 BIG 12)
RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Cody Hodges threw for 4,283 yards last season and has graduated. Sophomore Graham Harrell takes over this season, and he'll probably put up similar numbers. It's the system. In six game appearances last fall, Harrell was 37-of-55 with three touchdown tosses and no interceptions. Perhaps the biggest graduation loss is running back Taurean Henderson. Sophomore Shannon Woods is the favorite to replace him. In 24 carries last year, Woods averaged seven yards and scored three touchdowns.

Texas Tech's deluxe fleet of wide receivers could challenge USC's for the title of nation's best. Joel Filani and Jarrett Hicks are both first-team All-Big 12 returnees who caught 65 passes each with 18 touchdown grabs between them. Robert Johnson, the 2005 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year, caught 67 balls, four for scores. Four starters return in the offensive line, spearheaded by guard Manuel Ramirez.

Second-team All-Big 12 defensive end Keyunta Dawson has been moved to linebacker, where he will join the team's top returning tackler, Fletcher Session. Defensive tackles Chris Hudler and Ken Scott return to their starting assignments, but three new starters are needed in the secondary.

Road games against UTEP and TCU in Games 2 and 3 of '06 could be challenging. Late in the season, the Red Raiders host Texas and travel to Oklahoma.

Conference kingpin Texas Tech is the only Big 12 school to post winning records in each of the last 10 seasons.

Bombs away The Red Raiders led the nation in passing offense last year with 389 yards per game.

Go for it Texas Tech had the third-highest fourth-down conversion rate in the nation last year at 77.8 percent (14-of-18).

23. UTAH UTES

2005 RESULTS: 7–5 (4–4 MWC)
RETURNING STARTERS: 7 OFFENSE, 8 DEFENSE, PUNTER

All-American Alex Smith left Utah after his sensational 2004 season, leaving the ball in the hands of Brian Johnson, and all Johnson did was lead the Mountain West in passing efficiency and total offense and land on the all-conference second team. After Johnson went down with a knee injury, junior college transfer Brett Ratliff took over, threw for four touchdowns and ran for 112 yards and another score in a 41–34 upset of BYU in the regular-season finale. Then he completed 73 percent of his passes for Emerald Bowl and Utah postseason records of 381 yards and four touchdowns in a 38–10 rout of Georgia Tech. Head coach Kyle Whittingham has a decision to make.

He also has to find help for his signal-caller, with the top two receivers and second-team All-MWC running back Quinton Ganther all gone. Three returning starters up front, led by second-team all-conference tackle Tavo Tupola, will be a welcome sight.

The unquestioned leader of the Ute defense is cornerback Eric Weddle, the reigning Mountain West Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

The 2006 season starts with a bang at UCLA on Sept. 2. The midseason matchup with TCU and the finale against BYU are both in the friendly confines of Rice-Eccles Stadium.

Still clicking The Utes led the Mountain West Conference in total offense last year with 473 yards per game.

Winning habit Utah's 18-game winning streak that ended in an overtime loss to TCU last season is a school record.

Fast start Kyle Whittingham is only the second coach in Utah history to go to a bowl game his first year at the helm, and the first to do it without any head coaching experience.

24. ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

2005 RESULTS: 7–5 (4–4 PAC-10)
RETURNING STARTERS: 8 OFFENSE, 5 DEFENSE, BOTH KICKERS

Too bad they only use one football at a time — taken together, Sam Keller and Rudy Carpenter are the best pair of quarterbacks in the country. Keller started the first seven games of the season and completed 59 percent of his passes for 2,165 yards and 20 touchdowns before an injury shelved him for the rest of the year. Carpenter took over and turned in the best season of any freshman quarterback in ASU history — 68 percent completions, 2,273 yards, 17 touchdowns, two interceptions.

Tailback Keegan Herring ran for 870 yards at 5.5 per carry and six TDs last year as a freshman. The versatile Rudy Burgess, who might play both ways in 2006, ran for 644 yards and caught 59 passes. Terry Richardson scored on five receptions and two punt returns. And Zach Miller is arguably the nation's top tight end. This impressive array of talent will be operating behind an offensive line with four returning starters, anchored by senior tackle Andrew Carnahan.

The defense will lean on safety Zack Catanese, who notched 107 tackles last year. He is the only returning starter in the back seven and one of only five on defense.

The Sun Devils will have to take on Cal on Sept. 23 and USC on Oct. 14, both on the road.

Lighting it up Last season's Sun Devils placed in the NCAA's top seven in three major offensive categories: total offense (second with 519 yards per game), passing yardage (third at 373.4) and scoring (seventh at 36.8 points per game).

Top 3 Arizona State has the third-best record in the Pac-10 over the last 25 games at 18–7.

Outscoring In coach Dirk Koetter's five years at Arizona State, the Sun Devils have averaged 31.5 points per game.

25. NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

2005 RESULTS: 8–4 (4–4 BIG 12)
RETURNING STARTERS: 6 OFFENSE, 7 DEFENSE, PLACEKICKER

Nebraska posted a two-and-a-half-game improvement from Year 1 (5–6) to Year 2 (8–4) of the Bill Callahan era, and the Huskers enter 2006 having won their last three contests.

Callahan's West Coast Offense seems finally to be operating efficiently, with quarterback Zac Taylor throwing for seven touchdowns in those three games. He threw for 392 yards and two touchdowns in the regular-season finale at Colorado and added three touchdown tosses in the Alamo Bowl win over Michigan.

Receivers Terrence Nunn and Nate Swift both return after combining for 88 catches, 1,136 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns. And Matt Herian, one of the top pass-catching tight ends in the nation with 53 career receptions, is back after missing all of last season with a broken leg.

The 2005 Cornhusker defense was the best in the nation at getting to the quarterback, and team sack leader Adam Carriker is back at end. Corey McKeon posted team highs with 98 total tackles, 22 tackles for a loss and three interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown, and he's back at his linebacker post.

The 2006 Huskers travel to USC for Game 3 and will host Texas in late October. Oklahoma is conspicuously absent from the slate.

Uncharted territory The 2,692 passing yards by the 2005 Cornhuskers represent a new team record, and Zac Taylor's 2,653 passing yards set a new individual season mark.

SRO Nebraska is enjoying an NCAA-record streak of 275 consecutive sellouts at Memorial Stadium.

Blackshirts Nebraska's famed Blackshirt defense led the nation last fall with 50 sacks.

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2006 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB BRADY QUINN, NOTRE DAME
6'4", 231, SENIOR

As a junior in 2005, Quinn demolished all of the single-season Notre Dame records for passing and total offense, and with a year left he already owns most of the school's career records. Last season, he completed 65 percent of his passes for 3,919 yards and 32 touchdowns with only seven interceptions. He finished fourth in Heisman voting, making him the nation's top returning vote-getter.

RB MICHAEL BUSH, LOUISVILLE
6'2", 250, SENIOR

Bush led the nation in scoring last fall with an average of 14.4 points per game and finished second nationally with 23 rushing touchdowns, a school record. He rushed for 1,143 yards at 5.6 per carry, finished second in the Big East with 139.6 all-purpose yards per game and landed on the all-conference first team.

RB ADRIAN PETERSON, OKLAHOMA
6'2", 218, JUNIOR

In 2004, Peterson set an NCAA single-season record for freshmen with 1,925 yards, averaging 5.7 per carry and running for 15 touchdowns. He topped the 100-yard rushing mark in 11 different contests. Last fall, despite missing all or most of four games with an ankle injury, he still led all Big 12 running backs with 1,108 yards and 14 touchdowns. He passed the 100-yard mark in five games.

Michael Bush

WR DWAYNE JARRETT, USC
6'5", 210, JUNIOR

The big, athletic Jarrett is a mismatch for any defensive back. His 61-yard catch and run on 4th-and-9 against Notre Dame last year, keeping the Trojans' winning streak and Rose Bowl run alive, is an immortal moment. He set the Pac-10 on fire as a freshman in 2004, and last year he caught 91 passes for 1,274 yards and 16 touchdowns. In only two years at USC he has 146 catches for 2,123 yards and 29 TDs.

WR JEFF SAMARDZIJA, NOTRE DAME
6'5", 21, SENIOR

Samardzija, a.k.a. "the Shark," came out of nowhere as a junior to put a major dent in Notre Dame's receiving record book. He tied a 35-year-old school record by catching 77 passes and set new marks with 1,249 receiving yards and 15 touchdown catches. He caught at least one touchdown pass in each of 10 games, including the first eight in a row, and was a consensus first-team All-American.

Arron Sears

TE MATT SPAETH, MINNESOTA
6'6", 270, SENIOR

Spaeth is the ideal tight end — he blocks like a tackle and his receiving numbers speak for themselves. Over his first three years he has 62 receptions for 729 yards and eight touchdowns, grabbing four TD tosses in each of the last two years. He is a returning first-team All-Big Ten selection.

C DAN MOZES, WEST VIRGINIA
6'4", 290, SENIOR

Two years ago, Mozes made first-team All-Big East as a guard. Last fall, after switching to center, he was a second-team AP All-American. He again will spearhead the Mountaineer line that has paved the way for the top rushing attack in the conference for four straight years.

OL SAM BAKER, USC
6'5", 305, JUNIOR

After redshirting his first year at USC, Baker has been the Trojans' starting left tackle ever since. He was a consensus first-team Freshman All-American and second-team All-Pac-10 in '04; first-team all-conference and third-team AP All-America in 2005.

OL JUSTIN BLALOCK, TEXAS
6'4", 329, SENIOR

Blalock takes the baton from Jonathan Scott as the latest in a long line of All-Americans at Offensive Tackle U. He simply overpowers defenders from his right tackle position. He has been first-team All-Big 12 the last two years and was third-team AP All-America in 2005.

OL LEVI BROWN, PENN STATE
6'5", 328, SENIOR

Brown returns at left tackle for the Nittany Lions after leading the team with 869 offensive snaps last season. He has started 34 of the last 35 games, and finished 2005 as a first-team All-Big Ten selection and second-team AP All-America.

OL ARRON SEARS, TENNESSEE
6'4", 320, SENIOR

After starting one game as a freshman in 2003, Sears has been a regular in the lineup ever since. Over his career he has played at every O-Line position except center; he played four positions in the LSU game alone in 2005. Sears is a first-team All-SEC returnee.

K MASON CROSBY, COLORADO
6'2", 210, SENIOR

Crosby was Athlon Sports' preseason All-America kicker in 2005. He responded by hitting 22-of-29 field goal attempts, including 5-of-7 from 50 yards and out, and was a first-team All-American.

KR TED GINN JR., OHIO STATE
6'0", 175, JUNIOR

In 2005, Ginn finished fourth nationally with a 29.6-yard average on 18 kick returns, running one back for a touchdown. He is also one of the most dangerous wide receivers around.

Bush and Sears: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL DAN BAUZIN, CENTRAL MICHIGAN
6'3", 269, SENIOR

In 2005, Bauzin led the nation in tackles for a loss with 26.5 and finished second in sacks with 16. He also forced five fumbles, fourth-best in that department. He was first-team All-MAC in 2004 and is the reigning conference Defensive Player of the Year.

DL TIM CROWDER, TEXAS
6'4", 270, SENIOR

Crowder enters 2006 with 34 consecutive starts over the last three years at left defensive end. A first-team All-Big 12 returnee, Crowder has recorded 22 career tackles for a loss with 8.5 sacks. He also has batted down 11 passes, intercepted two, and forced four fumbles.

DL LAWRENCE JACKSON, USC
6'5", 265, JUNIOR

As a redshirt freshman in 2004, Jackson started all but one game and was a first-team Freshman All-American. Last season, he registered 13 tackles for a loss, including 10 sacks, and made first-team All-Pac-10 and third-team All-America. Over his two-year career, Jackson has racked up 24 tackles behind the line and 16 sacks.

DL BRANDON MEBANE, CALIFORNIA
6'3", 306, SENIOR

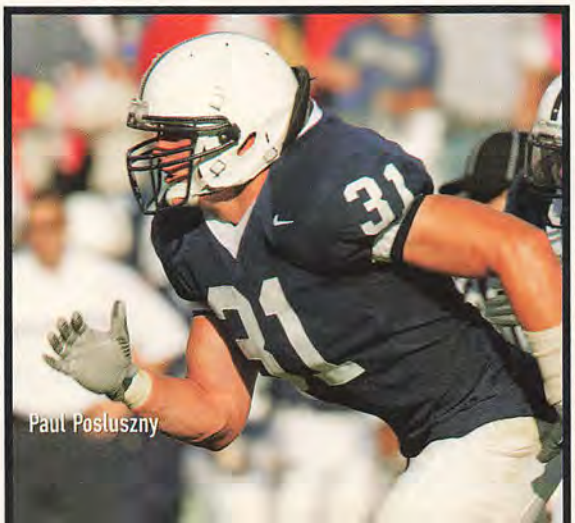
Mebane plays tackle on the best defensive line in America. Despite being hampered much of 2005 with an ankle injury and drawing regular double-team blocks, he still broke through for 9.5 tackles for a loss and a team-high seven sacks, and made first-team All-Pac-10.

LB RUFUS ALEXANDER, OKLAHOMA
6'1", 231, SENIOR

Alexander is a consensus first-team All-Big 12 returnee. As a junior in 2005, he led Oklahoma in tackles with 102, with six double-digit tackle games. He also notched 17 tackles for a loss and five sacks, including three against Nebraska, and intercepted a pass against Kansas.

LB PAUL POSLUSZNY, PENN STATE
6'1", 238, SENIOR

NFL Hall of Famer and former Penn State All-American Jack Ham calls Posluszny "the best linebacker ever to play at Penn State." Posluszny, with 220 tackles including 23 for a loss over the last two seasons, is the reigning Butkus Award winner as the nation's best linebacker.


Paul Posluszny

Posluszny: Bruce Schwartzman; Landry: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

LB PATRICK WILLIS, OLE MISS
6'2", 230, SENIOR

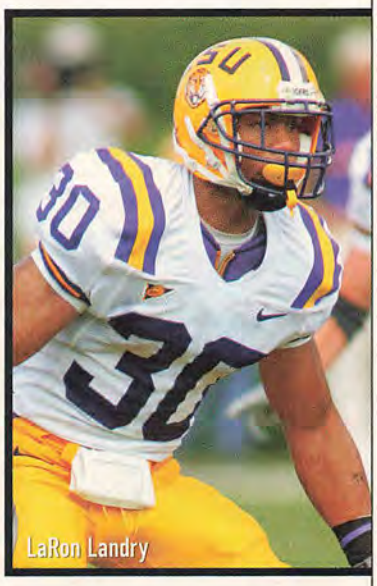
In 2005, Willis led the nation in solo tackles with 9.0 per game. He finished sixth and ranks first among all 2006 returnees with 12.8 total tackles per game. He was named first-team All-SEC by both the media and coaches and was second-team AP All-America.

CB DARRELLE REVIS, PITTSBURGH
6'0", 190, JUNIOR

A first-team All-Big East honoree in 2005, Revis is a key member of the Panther team as both a cornerback and punt returner. In two years, he has six interceptions, including four last year. As a 2004 freshman, he notched 12 pass breakups, then added nine more in '05.

CB ERIC WEDDLE, UTAH
6'0", 200, SENIOR

Weddle, the reigning Mountain West Conference Defensive Player of the Year, is entering his fourth year as a starter. In 2003, he started at cornerback and was a Freshman All-American. He moved to safety as a sophomore and back to corner early last season. He led the conference with 16 passes defended, including four interceptions.


LaRon Landry

S LARON LANDRY, LSU
6'2", 204, SENIOR

Landry was first-team All-SEC and third-team AP All-America in 2005 after picking off three passes and breaking up eight others. He is a three-year starter with career numbers of 12.5 tackles for a loss, seven sacks and nine interceptions.

S BRANDON MERIWEATHER, MIAMI
6'0", 188, SENIOR

Meriweather, who was named to the 2005 All-America team by the Football Writers Association of America, is equally adept at playing both safety spots. As a sophomore in 2004, he started seven games at free safety and notched two interceptions and five pass breakups. At strong safety last year, he picked off three passes, deflected seven and broke through the line for 13 tackles for a loss.

P CHRIS MILLER, BALL STATE
6'2", 212, SOPHOMORE

Miller joined the Ball State football team as a walk-on his freshman year of 2004 and earned a scholarship for the 2005 season. He averaged 42.9 yards on 68 punts, with a long of 60 yards, and placed 20 of his punts inside the opposing 20-yard line. He landed on the FWAA Freshman All-America team and was first-team All-MAC.

PR JOE BURNETT, UCF
5'11", 180, SOPHOMORE

Burnett is Conference USA's top player at both cornerback and punt returner. As a freshman last year, he was first-team all-conference in addition to making C-USA's All-Freshman team. On defense, he intercepted five passes and broke up nine others. He averaged 16.5 yards on 28 punt returns and ran two back for touchdowns, including a 68 yarder in the C-USA title game against Tulsa.

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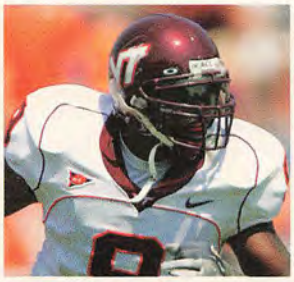
2006 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

SECOND TEAM

QUARTERBACK				
Troy Smith	6'1"	215	Sr.	Ohio State
RUNNING BACKS				
Kenny Irons	5'11"	200	Sr.	Auburn
Marshawn Lynch	5'11"	223	Jr.	California
WIDE RECEIVERS				
Calvin Johnson	6'4"	235	Jr.	Georgia Tech
Sidney Rice	6'3"	200	So.	South Carolina
TIGHT END				
Zach Miller	6'5"	258	Jr.	Arizona State

THIRD TEAM

QUARTERBACK				
Brian Brohm	6'4"	224	Jr.	Louisville
RUNNING BACKS				
Darren McFadden	6'2"	210	So.	Arkansas
Steve Slaton	5'10"	190	So.	West Virginia
WIDE RECEIVERS				
Todd Blythe	6'5"	210	Jr.	Iowa State
Jason Hill	6'1"	210	Sr.	Washington St.
TIGHT END				
Greg Olsen	6'5"	252	Jr.	Miami



Adam Carriker, Vince Hall, Marquies Gunn and Tommy Blake

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Ryan Kalil (Center)	6'3"	285	Sr.	USC
Ryan Harris	6'5"	298	Sr.	Notre Dame
Samson Satele	6'3"	311	Sr.	Hawaii
Joe Thomas	6'8"	306	Sr.	Wisconsin
Robert Turner	6'4"	328	Sr.	New Mexico
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Victor Abiamiri	6'4"	260	Sr.	Notre Dame
Adam Carriker	6'6"	280	Sr.	Nebraska
Justin Harrell	6'4"	300	Sr.	Tennessee
Quentin Moses	6'5"	250	Sr.	Georgia
LINEBACKERS				
H.B. Blades	6'0"	240	Sr.	Pittsburgh
Vince Hall	6'0"	236	Jr.	Virginia Tech
Sam Olajubutu	5'9"	229	Sr.	Arkansas
CORNERBACKS				
Joe Burnett	5'11"	180	So.	UCF
Daymeion Hughes	6'2"	188	Sr.	California
SAFETIES				
Kenny Phillips	6'2"	200	So.	Miami
Tom Zbikowski	6'0"	208	Sr.	Notre Dame
SPECIALISTS				
K Alexis Serna	5'8"	157	Jr.	Oregon State
P Kody Bliss	5'10"	177	Sr.	Auburn
KR Felix Jones	6'0"	202	So.	Arkansas
PR Quinton Jones	5'9"	177	Sr.	Boise State

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Kyle Young (Center)	6'5"	330	Sr.	Fresno State
Tim Duckworth	6'4"	310	Sr.	Auburn
Doug Free	6'7"	302	Sr.	Northern Illinois
John Greco	6'5"	318	Jr.	Toledo
Herbert Taylor	6'4"	287	Sr.	TCU
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				
Tommy Blake	6'3"	250	Jr.	TCU
Marquies Gunn	6'4"	254	Sr.	Auburn
Kenny Iwebema	6'4"	270	Jr.	Iowa
Quinn Pitcock	6'3"	295	Sr.	Ohio State
LINEBACKERS				
Rob Caldwell	6'0"	222	Sr.	Navy
Buster Davis	5'11"	240	Sr.	Florida State
Kevin McLee	6'1"	255	Sr.	West Virginia
CORNERBACKS				
Leon Hall	5'11"	193	Sr.	Michigan
Reggie Smith	6'1"	190	So.	Oklahoma
SAFETIES				
Bobby Blackshire	6'3"	205	Sr.	Tulsa
J.D. Nelson	5'11"	219	Sr.	Oregon
SPECIALISTS				
K Brandon Coutu	6'0"	185	Jr.	Georgia
P Jim Kaylor	6'3"	198	Jr.	Colorado State
KR Jonathan Stewart	5'11"	234	So.	Oregon
PR Rafael Little	5'10"	198	Jr.	Kentucky

Carriker: Larry Smith; Blake: John Bettancourt
Hall: Bruce Schwartzman; Gunn: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

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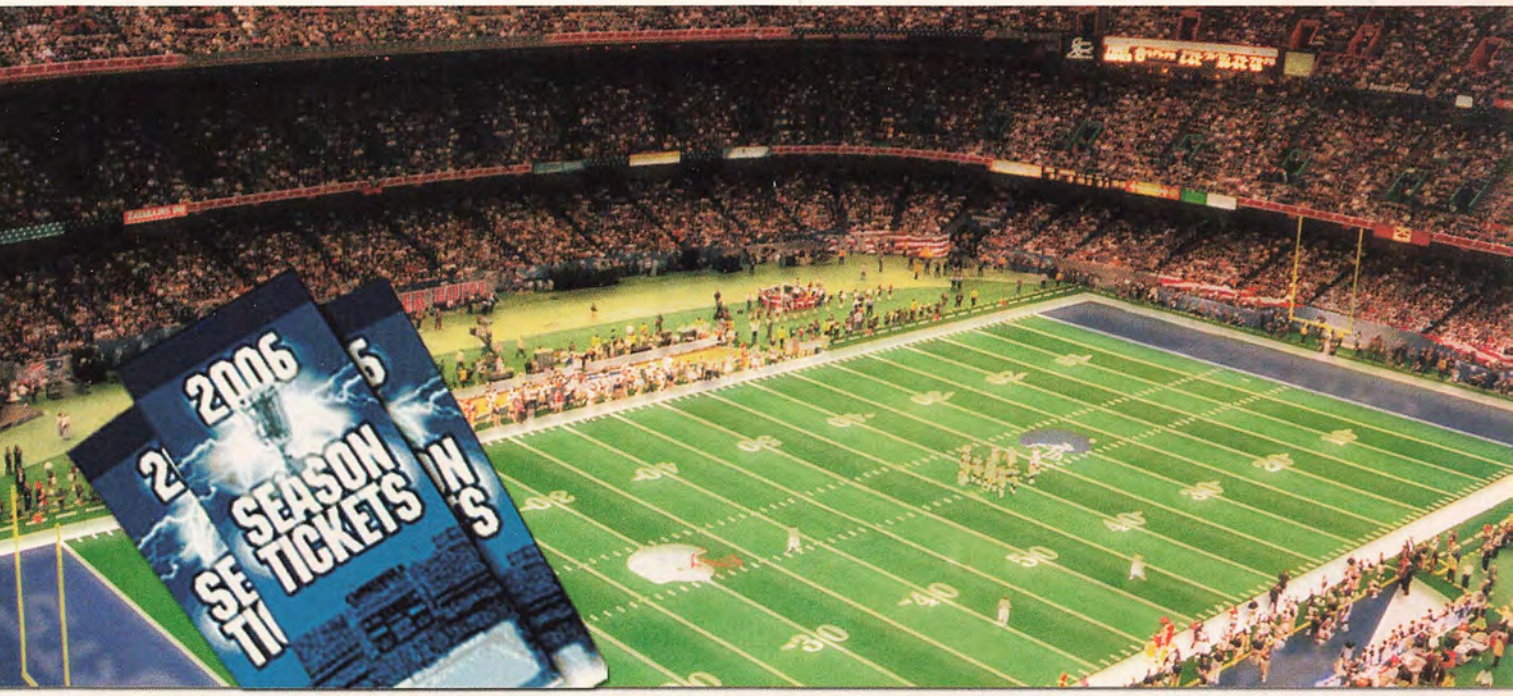

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ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	4	2	9	8	7	8	3
CLEMSON	6	1	1	1	3	1	10
DUKE	10	12	12	12	11	12	11
FLORIDA STATE	1	6	2	4	5	6	6
GEORGIA TECH	3	8	3	2	1	5	12
MARYLAND	5	5	11	3	6	7	9
MIAMI	2	3	6	7	2	4	2
NC STATE	9	4	8	11	10	11	4
NORTH CAROLINA	7	9	7	9	9	9	7
VIRGINIA	11	11	5	10	8	10	8
VIRGINIA TECH	8	10	4	5	4	2	1
WAKE FOREST	12	7	10	6	12	3	5

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	9	12	9	11	12	11	11
COLORADO	12	6	12	2	10	6	3
IOWA STATE	1	9	2	5	6	7	8
KANSAS	11	5	10	3	4	10	6
KANSAS STATE	3	8	7	8	11	5	9
MISSOURI	8	7	5	4	2	4	5
NEBRASKA	4	10	4	12	5	2	4
OKLAHOMA	2	1	6	6	1	1	2
OKLAHOMA STATE	10	4	8	10	8	12	12
TEXAS	7	2	3	1	3	3	1
TEXAS A&M	6	3	11	9	7	9	10
TEXAS TECH	5	11	1	7	9	8	7

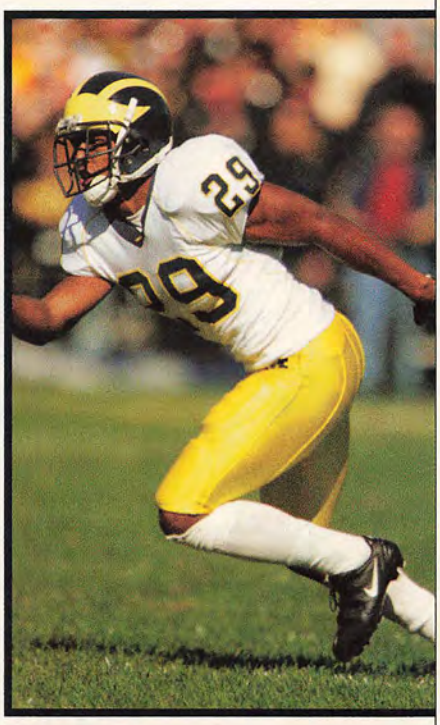
BIG EAST CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	5	5	4	6	5	4	1
CONNECTICUT	6	4	6	7	3	7	2
LOUISVILLE	1	1	1	2	2	5	3
PITTSBURGH	3	6	5	4	4	3	5
RUTGERS	4	2	2	3	6	6	6
SOUTH FLORIDA	8	7	8	5	7	2	4
SYRACUSE	7	8	7	8	8	8	7
WEST VIRGINIA	2	3	3	1	1	1	8

Clemson: Chris Covatta; Texas Tech: Layne Murdoch

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	10	6	10	5	11	10	8
INDIANA	7	11	6	11	10	11	10
IOWA	3	2	8	1	1	8	5
MICHIGAN	4	3	1	3	4	2	1
MICHIGAN STATE	2	7	7	10	8	6	7
MINNESOTA	6	9	4	8	7	4	6
NORTHWESTERN	11	4	9	9	9	9	9
OHIO STATE	1	1	2	2	3	3	3
PENN STATE	8	5	3	7	5	1	4
PURDUE	9	10	5	4	6	7	11
WISCONSIN	5	8	11	6	2	5	2

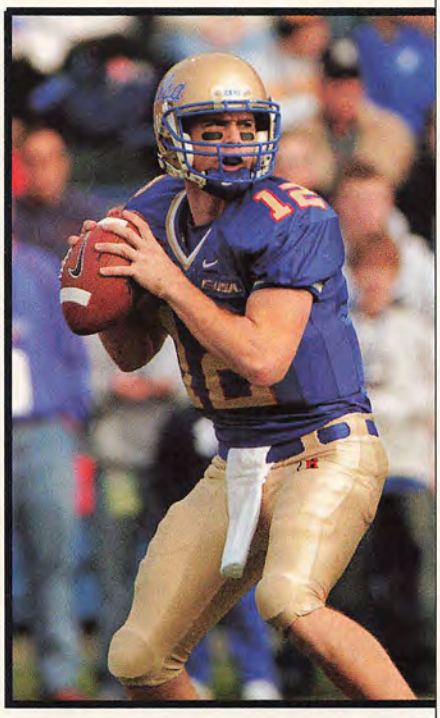


CONFERENCE USA

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	5	4	1	10	5	11	5
HOUSTON	3	12	2	2	11	5	3
MARSHALL	8	2	6	5	2	3	9
MEMPHIS	7	10	4	6	8	7	6
RICE	12	11	11	12	12	10	11
SMU	10	5	8	9	3	9	12
SOUTHERN MISS	9	6	3	7	7	8	7
TULANE	6	9	9	11	10	12	10
TULSA	1	8	10	3	9	1	1
UAB	11	3	12	4	4	4	8
UCF	4	1	7	1	6	6	2
UTEP	2	7	5	8	1	2	4

MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	1	5	6	8	3	5	9
BALL STATE	2	7	5	10	11	8	12
BOWLING GREEN	6	10	8	5	10	9	5
BUFFALO	12	11	12	11	12	11	10
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	7	6	3	4	1	7	11
EASTERN MICHIGAN	11	8	4	7	5	10	7
KENT STATE	10	12	11	12	6	12	4
MIAMI	5	4	1	2	4	3	2
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	3	2	7	6	7	6	1
OHIO	8	3	10	3	9	1	8
TOLEDO	9	1	2	1	2	4	3
WESTERN MICHIGAN	4	9	9	9	8	2	6

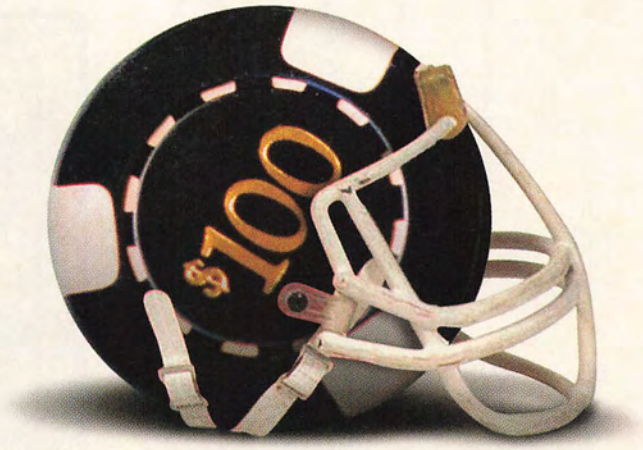


MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	6	5	9	7	9	9	9
BYU	2	2	1	3	5	2	6
COLORADO STATE	8	4	2	6	3	8	4
NEW MEXICO	5	9	6	1	6	6	8
SAN DIEGO STATE	4	3	5	9	4	4	2
TCU	3	1	4	4	1	1	3
UNLV	7	6	7	8	7	5	5
UTAH	1	8	3	2	2	3	1
WYOMING	9	7	8	5	8	7	7

Michigan: Larry Smith; Tulsa: Paul Levy

Perfect Mix.



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PAC-10 CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	6	10	2	7	6	7	1
ARIZONA STATE	1	4	9	4	7	9	7
CALIFORNIA	5	1	4	8	1	2	2
OREGON	9	2	10	2	5	6	6
OREGON STATE	10	3	5	3	9	10	4
STANFORD	3	9	7	9	8	4	8
UCLA	8	7	6	6	2	5	5
USC	2	5	1	1	3	1	3
WASHINGTON	7	6	8	10	10	8	10
WASHINGTON STATE	4	8	3	5	4	3	9

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	10	4	3	3	7	8	6
ARKANSAS	6	2	7	1	2	5	4
AUBURN	3	3	9	2	5	3	3
FLORIDA	1	8	2	8	1	2	5
GEORGIA	7	1	8	4	6	1	7
KENTUCKY	9	7	10	10	11	11	10
LSU	2	9	1	5	4	7	1
MISSISSIPPI STATE	11	12	11	11	8	6	8
OLE MISS	8	6	12	12	12	4	12
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	10	4	9	9	12	9
TENNESSEE	5	5	6	7	3	9	2
VANDERBILT	12	11	5	6	10	10	11

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARKANSAS STATE	7	6	4	3	8	1	2
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	5	4	6	7	3	6	8
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	2	5	1	8	1	2	5
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	3	3	5	4	5	5	4
NORTH TEXAS	8	2	2	5	2	4	7
TROY	4	8	3	6	7	8	3
UL LAFAYETTE	1	1	8	2	6	7	6
UL MONROE	6	7	7	1	4	3	1

WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOISE STATE	3	2	3	2	1	1	3
FRESNO STATE	7	5	4	1	2	2	1
HAWAII	2	9	2	3	3	7	5
IDAHO	6	3	7	5	5	4	4
LOUISIANA TECH	8	7	8	7	8	6	8
NEVADA	1	4	1	4	4	3	2
NEW MEXICO STATE	5	6	6	8	9	9	6
SAN JOSE STATE	9	1	9	6	7	8	9
UTAH STATE	4	8	5	9	6	5	7

Arizona: Greg LeBoeuf;
Arkansas: Tim Jackson

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ACC Rankings

1. FLORIDA STATE
2. MIAMI
3. CLEMSON
4. NORTH CAROLINA
5. MARYLAND
6. VIRGINIA TECH
7. DUKE
8. NC STATE
9. BOSTON COLLEGE
10. GEORGIA TECH
11. VIRGINIA
12. WAKE FOREST

1.	Myron Rolle	S	6'2"	214	Princeton, NJ	Florida State
2.	C.J. Spiller	RB	5'11"	190	Lake Butler, FL	Clemson
3.	LeSean McCoy	RB	5'11"	200	Harrisburg, PA	Miami
4.	Ricky Sapp	DE	6'5"	225	Bamberg, SC	Clemson
5.	D'Vontrey Richardson	QB	6'1"	205	Leesburg, GA	Florida State
6.	Ryan Hill	CB	5'11"	186	Tallahassee, FL	Miami
7.	Marcus Ball	LB	6'0"	205	Stone Mountain, GA	Florida State
8.	Jarrell Miller	LB	6'3"	235	Highland Springs, VA	North Carolina
9.	Ian Symonette	OL	6'9"	338	Nassau, Bahamas	Miami
10.	Kylan Robinson	RB	6'1"	215	Tampa, FL	Miami
11.	Jason Adjepong	DE	6'3"	248	Rahway, NJ	Virginia Tech
12.	Brandon Warren	TE	6'2"	230	Alcoa, TN	Florida State
13.	Sam Shields	WR	6'0"	175	Sarasota, FL	Miami
14.	Bruce Campbell	OL	6'7"	285	Hamden, CT	Maryland
15.	Caz Piurowski	TE	6'7"	234	Land O'Lakes, FL	Florida State
16.	Javarris James	RB	6'0"	201	Immokalee, FL	Miami
17.	Aaron Brown	OL	6'6"	290	Cincinnati, OH	Virginia Tech
18.	Marcus Sims	RB	6'0"	211	Tallahassee, FL	Florida State
19.	Brandon King	FB	6'2"	240	Doylestown, PA	Duke
20.	Jamie Cumbie	DE	6'7"	255	Morris, IL	Clemson

Big East Rankings

1. PITTSBURGH
2. LOUISVILLE
3. SYRACUSE
4. SOUTH FLORIDA
5. WEST VIRGINIA
6. RUTGERS
7. UCONN
8. CINCINNATI

1.	Nate Byham	TE	6'3"	215	Polk, PA	Pittsburgh
2.	Dorin Dickerson	WR	6'2"	200	Oakdale, PA	Pittsburgh
3.	Deantwan Whitehead	DE	6'6"	245	Birmingham, AL	Louisville
4.	Elijah Fields	WR	6'2"	210	Duquesne, PA	Pittsburgh
5.	Joe Thomas	OL	6'5"	285	Parma, OH	Pittsburgh
6.	Kevin Collier	RB	5'11"	180	Rochester, NY	Pittsburgh
7.	Josh Chichester	WR	6'8"	210	West Chester, OH	Louisville
8.	John Malecki	DT	6'3"	270	Murrysville, PA	Pittsburgh
9.	Jason Pinkston	DT	6'4"	280	Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh
10.	Andrey Baskin	WR	6'3"	203	Camden, NJ	Syracuse
11.	Zach Meagher	TE	6'4"	248	Cincinnati, OH	Louisville
12.	Jeff Otah	OL	6'6"	340	New Castle, DE	Pittsburgh
13.	Delone Carter	RB	5'10"	220	Copley, OH	Syracuse
14.	Leslie Stirrups	DT	6'2"	280	Tampa, FL	South Florida
15.	L.T. Walker	DT	6'4"	320	Wynne, AR	Louisville
16.	Latarrius Thomas	WR	6'2"	205	New Smyrna Beach, FL	Louisville
17.	Jovani Chappel	CB	5'8"	175	Trotwood, OH	Pittsburgh
18.	Ricky Gary	CB	5'9"	175	Pahokee, FL	Pittsburgh
19.	Alwan Lee	QB	6'1"	190	Miami, FL	South Florida
20.	Brandon Heath	S	6'1"	195	Miami, FL	Louisville

Big Ten Rankings

1. PENN STATE
2. MICHIGAN
3. OHIO STATE
4. ILLINOIS
5. WISCONSIN
6. IOWA
7. MICHIGAN STATE
8. PURDUE
9. MINNESOTA
10. NORTHWESTERN
11. INDIANA

1.	Chris Wells	RB	6'1"	225	Akron, OH	Ohio State
2.	Brandon Graham	LB	6'2"	240	Detroit, MI	Michigan
3.	Steve Schilling	OL	6'5"	285	Bellevue, WA	Michigan
4.	Connor Smith	OL	6'5"	295	Cincinnati, OH	Ohio State
5.	Antonio Logan-El	OL	6'6"	310	Forestville, MD	Penn State
6.	Justin Boren	OL	6'4"	305	Pickerington, OH	Michigan
7.	Chris Bell	WR	6'3"	205	Norfolk, VA	Penn State
8.	Jonas Mouton	S	6'2"	212	Los Angeles, CA	Michigan
9.	Robert Rose	DE	6'5"	260	Cleveland, OH	Ohio State
10.	Pat Devlin	QB	6'4"	200	Downington, PA	Penn State
11.	Jared Odrick	DT	6'6"	285	Lebanon, PA	Penn State
12.	Thaddeus Gibson	LB	6'3"	220	Euclid, OH	Ohio State
13.	Maurice Evans	DE	6'3"	252	Middle Village, NY	Penn State
14.	Isiah Williams	QB	6'2"	207	Chicago, IL	Illinois
15.	Mark Johnson	LB	6'4"	230	Los Angeles, CA	Ohio State
16.	A.J. Wallace	CB	6'1"	195	Pomfret, MD	Penn State
17.	Stevie Brown	CB	6'0"	195	Columbus, IN	Michigan
18.	Ray Small	WR	6'0"	175	Cleveland, OH	Ohio State
19.	Lance Kendricks	WR	6'4"	210	Milwaukee, WI	Wisconsin
20.	Antonio Henton	QB	6'2"	210	Fort Valley, GA	Ohio State

Recruiting information provided by Scout.com

Top 50 Recruiting Classes

1. USC
2. Florida
3. Texas
4. Georgia
5. Notre Dame
6. Penn State
7. LSU
8. Oklahoma
9. Auburn
10. Michigan
11. Pittsburgh
12. Florida State
13. Ohio State
14. Miami
15. Ole Miss
16. Oklahoma State
17. Texas Tech
18. Alabama
19. Arizona
20. UCLA
21. Texas A&M
22. Clemson
23. California
24. Tennessee
25. North Carolina
26. Louisville
27. Maryland
28. Illinois
29. Nebraska
30. Arkansas
31. Virginia Tech
32. Arizona State
33. South Carolina
34. Kentucky
35. Washington
36. Duke
37. Wisconsin
38. Stanford
39. Mississippi State
40. Iowa
41. Oregon State
42. NC State
43. Michigan State
44. Boston College
45. Washington State
46. BYU
47. Kansas
48. Kansas State
49. Georgia Tech
50. Colorado

Recruiting Report

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Big 12 Rankings

1. TEXAS	5. TEXAS A&M	9. COLORADO
2. OKLAHOMA	6. NEBRASKA	10. BAYLOR
3. OKLAHOMA STATE	7. KANSAS	11. MISSOURI
4. TEXAS TECH	8. KANSAS STATE	12. IOWA STATE

1.	Gerald McCoy	DT	6'4"	305	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma
2.	Sergio Kindle	LB	6'4"	225	Dallas, TX	Texas
3.	Michael Goodson	RB	6'0"	205	Klein, TX	Texas A&M
4.	Eddie Jones	DE	6'3"	240	Kilgore, TX	Texas
5.	Deon Beasley	DB	5'10"	168	Orange, TX	Texas
6.	J'Marcus Webb	OL	6'8"	280	Mesquite, TX	Texas
7.	Jevan Snead	QB	6'3"	215	Stephenville, TX	Texas
8.	Jermaine Gresham	TE	6'7"	230	Ardmore, OK	Oklahoma
9.	Perrish Cox	CB	6'1"	180	Waco, TX	Oklahoma State
10.	Dustin Earnest	LB	6'3"	217	Texarkana, TX	Texas
11.	Alex Cate	QB	6'2"	198	Salt Lake City, UT	Oklahoma State
12.	Adron Tennell	WR	6'5"	195	Irving, TX	Oklahoma
13.	Lamarr Houston	DE	6'2"	257	Colorado Springs, CO	Texas
14.	Cody Williams	DE	6'4"	235	Longview, TX	Texas A&M
15.	Derek Burton	DE	6'5"	255	Muskogee, OK	Oklahoma State
16.	Sherrod Harris	QB	6'3"	212	Arlington, TX	Texas
17.	Mossis Madu	RB	6'1"	190	Norman, OK	Oklahoma
18.	Philip Payne	WR	6'2"	205	Garland, TX	Texas
19.	Dominque Franks	CB	6'0"	178	Tulsa, OK	Oklahoma
20.	Jerrod Johnson	QB	6'6"	225	Humble, TX	Texas A&M

Conference USA Rankings

1. EAST CAROLINA	5. MARSHALL	9. SOUTHERN MISS
2. MEMPHIS	6. TULANE	10. SMU
3. UAB	7. TULSA	11. RICE
4. HOUSTON	8. UCF	12. UTEP

1.	Jared White	WR	6'0"	185	Mobile, AL	UAB
2.	Dwayne Harris	QB	6'0"	190	Stone Mountain, GA	East Carolina
3.	Phillip Smith	RB	6'1"	190	Mansfield, TX	UCF
4.	Clark Harrell	QB	6'2"	190	Ennis, TX	Tulsa
5.	L.J. Castille	QB	6'3"	200	LaMarque, TX	Houston
6.	Duke Calhoun	WR	6'4"	185	Memphis, TN	Memphis
7.	Melvin Patterson	WR	6'3"	205	Alachua, FL	East Carolina
8.	Phillip Burley	WR	6'5"	210	Rosser, TX	SMU
9.	Courtney Smith	WR	6'4"	205	Prattville, AL	UAB
10.	Corderick Govan	LB	6'2"	200	Cascilla, MS	Memphis
11.	Ashton Hall	CB	5'10"	183	Kingsland, GA	Marshall
12.	Kevin Moore	QB	6'5"	215	Highland Village, TX	Tulane
13.	Torell Johnson	DT	6'3"	345	Conyers, GA	UCF
14.	Max Anyiam	S	6'1"	195	Garland, TX	Rice
15.	Robert Williams	DL	6'3"	195	Denver, CO	UTEP
16.	J.D. Douglas	DB	6'2"	200	Prattville, AL	UAB
17.	Norman Whitley	RB	5'9"	180	Hamlet, NC	East Carolina
18.	Winston Bowens	LB	6'0"	250	College Park, GA	Memphis
19.	Pierre Beasley	QB	6'4"	212	Houston, TX	Rice
20.	Roshaad Byrd	DL	6'3"	210	Meridian, MS	Southern Miss

MAC Rankings

1. MIAMI	5. BOWLING GREEN	9. CENTRAL MICHIGAN
2. AKRON	6. WESTERN MICHIGAN	10. EASTERN MICHIGAN
3. TOLEDO	7. OHIO	11. KENT STATE
4. BALL STATE	8. NORTHERN ILLINOIS	12. BUFFALO

1.	Nate Davis	QB	6'2"	225	Bellaire, OH	Ball State
2.	Mark Jackson	OL	6'6"	295	Columbus, OH	Akron
3.	Barry Church	DB	6'2"	215	Pittsburgh, PA	Toledo
4.	Andre Boone	RB	5'10"	190	Virginia Beach, VA	Akron
5.	Jordan Stevens	DE	6'4"	245	Monroeville, PA	Miami
6.	Terrence McCrae	WR	6'4"	205	Vanderbilt, PA	Ohio
7.	P.J. Mahone	DB	5'11"	201	Elyria, OH	Bowling Green
8.	Jan Gewont	OL	6'6"	305	Palos Heights, IL	Toledo
9.	Aaris Reed	RB	5'7"	174	Waldorf, MD	Akron
10.	David Harvey	WR	5'11"	160	Pittsburgh, PA	Akron
11.	Quinton Rainey	LB/RB	5'10"	230	Virginia Beach, VA	Kent State
12.	Jared Dewalt	OL	6'4"	295	Lyndhurst, OH	Toledo
13.	Peris Edwards	DB	6'1"	175	Toledo, OH	Miami
14.	Brandon Jackson	LB	6'2"	220	Memphis, TN	Bowling Green
15.	Jerome Jones	TE	6'7"	220	Youngstown, OH	Toledo
16.	Horace Hubbard	DL	6'4"	240	Gretna, VA	Ohio
17.	Jaymeson Moody	DE	6'2"	226	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Western Michigan
18.	Andre Hatchett	LB	5'11"	190	Indianapolis, IN	Eastern Michigan
19.	Martin Channels	DL	6'0"	320	Xenia, OH	Miami
20.	D.J. Young	DL	6'5"	278	Lansing, MI	Bowling Green

Mountain West Rankings

1. BYU	4. COLORADO STATE	7. WYOMING
2. UTAH	5. SAN DIEGO STATE	8. NEW MEXICO
3. TCU	6. UNLV	9. AIR FORCE

1.	James Lark	QB	6'3"	205	St. George, UT	BYU
2.	Matangi Tonga	DE	6'2"	270	San Mateo, CA	BYU
3.	Joe Faifili	DT	6'2"	296	Laie, HI	Utah
4.	Wayne Daniels	DE	6'2"	230	Kilgore, TX	TCU
5.	Walter Watts	OL	6'3"	315	Los Banos, CA	Utah
6.	McKay Jacobson	WR	6'0"	185	Southlake, TX	BYU
7.	Whitley Fehoko	OL	6'0"	320	Honolulu, HI	San Diego State
8.	Ryan Griffith	OL	6'4"	250	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Colo. State
9.	Tim High	DT	6'2"	300	Harbor City, CA	UNLV
10.	Bubba Tuinei	DE	6'5"	230	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah
11.	Brandon Sullivan	RB	5'11"	210	Poway, CA	San Diego State
12.	Pauli Latu	DT	6'1"	285	West Valley City, UT	Utah
13.	Ryan Freeman	OL	6'4"	275	Orem, UT	BYU
14.	Neli A'asa	DT	6'2"	294	Big Rapids, MI	Utah
15.	Davon Brown	RB	5'9"	170	Torrance, CA	San Diego State
16.	Rhen Brown	WR	5'11"	175	Highland, UT	BYU
17.	Clint Renfro	WR	6'0"	160	Southlake, TX	TCU
18.	Mookie Murphy	CB	5'10"	175	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah
19.	Andy Dalton	QB	6'2"	185	Katy, TX	TCU
20.	Mike Hague	RB	6'0"	210	Salt Lake City, UT	BYU

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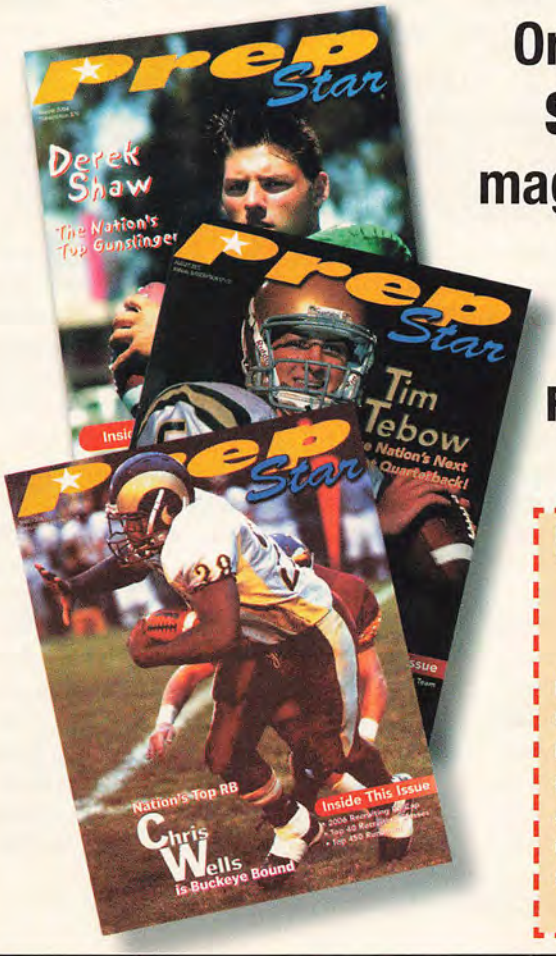

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ATH

Recruiting Report

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Pac-10 Rankings

1. USC	5. ARIZONA STATE	9. WASHINGTON STATE
2. ARIZONA	6. WASHINGTON	10. OREGON
3. UCLA	7. STANFORD	
4. CALIFORNIA	8. OREGON STATE	

1. Vidal Hazelton	WR	6'3"	200	Staten Island, NY	USC
2. Stafon Johnson	RB	6'1"	210	Bellflower, CA	USC
3. Taylor Mays	S	6'4"	225	Seattle, WA	USC
4. C.J. Gable	S	6'1"	190	Sylmar, CA	USC
5. Allen Bradford	LB	6'0"	230	San Bernardino, CA	USC
6. Josh Tatum	LB	6'1"	225	San Pablo, CA	USC
7. Antwine Perez	S	6'2"	205	Westville Grove, NJ	USC
8. David Ausberry	WR	6'5"	215	Lemoore, CA	USC
9. Butch Lewis	DL	6'7"	300	Denver, CO	USC
10. Derrick Hill	DT	6'2"	280	Oakland, CA	California
11. Devin Ross	CB	5'11"	180	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Arizona
12. Emmanuel Moody	RB	6'1"	195	Coppell, TX	USC
13. Darian Hagan	CB	5'11"	180	Los Angeles, CA	California
14. Terrence Austin	WR	5'11"	175	Long Beach, CA	UCLA
15. Jake Locker	QB	6'2"	210	Ferndale, WA	Washington
16. Cameron Elisara	DT	6'3"	275	Spokane, WA	Washington
17. Shareece Wright	CB	6'1"	185	Colton, CA	USC
18. Jamere Holland	WR	6'1"	180	Pacoima, CA	USC
19. Derek Simmons	DT	6'4"	275	Suisun, CA	USC
20. Stanley Havili	RB	6'1"	220	Salt Lake City, UT	USC

SEC Rankings

1. FLORIDA	5. OLE MISS	9. SOUTH CAROLINA
2. GEORGIA	6. ALABAMA	10. KENTUCKY
3. LSU	7. TENNESSEE	11. MISSISSIPPI STATE
4. AUBURN	8. ARKANSAS	12. VANDERBILT

1. Andre Smith	OL	6'5"	315	Birmingham, AL	Alabama
2. Percy Harvin	WR	5'11"	182	Virginia Beach, VA	Florida
3. Micah Johnson	LB	6'2"	255	Fort Campbell, KY	Kentucky
4. Mitch Mustain	QB	6'3"	205	Springdale, AR	Arkansas
5. Matthew Stafford	QB	6'3"	210	Dallas, TX	Georgia
6. Al Woods	DT	6'5"	325	Elton, LA	LSU
7. Keiland Williams	RB	5'11"	223	Lafayette, LA	LSU
8. Jai Eugene	CB	6'0"	175	Destrehan, LA	LSU
9. Jamar Hornsby	WR	6'4"	195	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
10. Jarred Fayson	WR	6'0"	195	Tampa, FL	Florida
11. Tim Tebow	QB	6'3"	225	St. Augustine, FL	Florida
12. Akeem Hebron	LB	6'1"	195	Gaithersburg, MD	Georgia
13. Brandon Spikes	LB	6'4"	230	Shelby, NC	Florida
14. Carl Johnson	OL	6'6"	335	Durham, NC	Florida
15. Bart Eddins	DT	6'4"	260	Montgomery, AL	Auburn
16. Clifton Geathers	OL	6'7"	280	Georgetown, SC	Georgia
17. Brandon Wood	DE	6'1"	254	Buchanan, GA	Georgia
18. Charles Scott	RB	6'0"	223	Saline, LA	LSU
19. NaDerris Ward	TE	6'5"	247	Oakland, CA	Georgia
20. Knowshon Moreno	RB	5'11"	205	Belford, NJ	Georgia

Sun Belt Rankings

1. TROY	3. UL MONROE	7. FLORIDA ATLANTIC
2. UL LAFAYETTE	3. NORTH TEXAS	8. ARKANSAS STATE
3. FIU	6. MIDDLE TENNESSEE	

1. Danny Carmichael	LB	6'1"	235	Woodstock, GA	Middle Tenn.
2. Javon Hill	OL	6'4"	330	Opa Locka, Florida	FIU
3. Ryan Wischnefski,	OL	6'3"	320	Melbourne FL	Florida Atlantic
4. Tyler Albrecht	K	6'0"	170	Lafayette, LA	UL Lafayette
5. Justin Bray	CB	5'10"	175	Columbus, GA	Troy
6. Markee Drummer	DE	6'4"	220	W. Palm Beach, FL	Florida Atlantic
7. Chance Attaway	RB	5'10"	198	Blountstown, FL	FIU
8. Alvin Ingle	TE	6'2"	230	Hendersonville, TN	Middle Tenn.
9. Matt Desormeaux	RB	6'1"	210	New Iberia, LA	UL Lafayette
10. Devon Freeman	RB	5'11"	197	Niceville, FL	FIU
11. Desmond Gee	RB	5'8"	170	Madison, FL	Middle Tenn.
12. Ian Burks	OL	6'3"	260	Denham Springs, LA	UL Lafayette
13. Preston Fuller	QB	6'0"	180	Irving, TX	UL Monroe
14. Andre Wicker	DE	6'2"	232	Atlanta, GA	Middle Tenn.
15. Gary Tucke	DE	6'2"	245	Maryville, TN	Middle Tenn.
16. Louis Lee	WR	5'10"	166	Reserve, LA	UL Lafayette
17. Phillip Tanner	RB	5'10"	165	Dallas, TX	Middle Tenn.
18. Cornelius Williams	WR	6'1"	180	Hoover, AL	Troy
19. Adam Wade	LB/S	5'10"	210	Florence, SC	Middle Tenn.
20. Cam Robinson	LB	6'1"	220	Stevenson, AL	Middle Tenn.

WAC Rankings

1. IDAHO	4. SAN JOSE STATE	7. HAWAII
2. BOISE STATE	5. FRESNO STATE	8. UTAH STATE
3. NEVADA	6. LOUISIANA TECH	9. NEW MEXICO STATE

1. John Romero	DL	6'4"	295	Tucson, AZ	Nevada
2. Andre Harris	RB	6'0"	217	Woodland Hills, CA	Idaho
3. Kapono Rawlins-Crivello	DE	6'1"	240	Molokai, HI	Boise State
4. Xavier Lucas	WR	6'4"	200	Phoenix, AZ	Boise State
5. Cudahy Harmon	OL	6'8"	315	Tyler, TX	Louisiana Tech
6. Dominique Hunsucker	RB	5'10"	190	San Jose, CA	San Jose State
7. Lonyae Miller	RB	5'11"	210	Fontana, CA	Fresno State
8. Andrew Jackson	DE	6'5"	250	Grass Valley, CA	Fresno State
9. Chris Wellington	WR	6'1"	185	Woodland Hills, CA	Nevada
10. Mike Coughlin	QB	6'5"	215	San Diego, CA	Boise State
11. William Griffin	RB	5'11"	200	Patterson, LA	Louisiana Tech
12. Colin Kaepernick	QB	6'5"	190	Turlock, CA	Nevada
13. Keith McGowen	CB	5'10"	165	Lynwood, CA	Boise State
14. Shiloh Keo	CB	5'10"	175	Everett, WA	Idaho
15. Daniel Porter	RB	5'11"	190	Baton Rouge, LA	Louisiana Tech
16. Paul Senescall	LB	6'1"	215	Spokane, WA	Idaho
17. Mitch Farney	WR	6'0"	185	Phoenix, AZ	Hawaii
18. Dontay Moch	DB	6'1"	220	Chandler, AZ	Nevada
19. Ryan Coulson	LB	6'3"	225	Elk Grove, CA	Nevada
20. Dante Perez	QB	5'10"	175	San Jose, CA	San Jose State

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Top 100 Incoming Freshmen

	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	School
1.	Chris Wells	RB	6'1"	225	Akron, OH	Ohio State
2.	Andre Smith	OL	6'5"	315	Birmingham, AL	Alabama
3.	Sam Young	OL	6'7"	292	Coral Springs, FL	Notre Dame
4.	Gerald McCoy	DT	6'4"	305	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma
5.	Vidal Hazelton	WR	6'3"	200	Staten Island, NY	USC
6.	Sergio Kindle	LB	6'4"	225	Dallas, TX	Texas
7.	Myron Rolle	S	6'2"	214	Princeton, NJ	Florida State
8.	Percy Harvin	WR	5'11"	182	Virginia Beach, VA	Florida
9.	Micah Johnson	LB	6'2"	255	Fort Campbell, KY	Kentucky
10.	Mitch Mustain	QB	6'3"	205	Springdale, AR	Arkansas
11.	Matthew Stafford	QB	6'3"	210	Dallas, TX	Georgia
12.	Al Woods	DT	6'5"	325	Elton, LA	LSU
13.	Stafon Johnson	RB	6'1"	210	Bellflower, CA	USC
14.	Brandon Graham	LB	6'2"	240	Detroit, MI	Michigan
15.	Keiland Williams	RB	5'11"	223	Lafayette, LA	LSU
16.	C.J. Spiller	RB	5'11"	190	Lake Butler, FL	Clemson
17.	Jai Eugene	CB	6'0"	175	Destrehan, LA	LSU
18.	Michael Goodson	RB	6'0"	205	Klein, TX	Texas A&M
19.	Steve Schilling	OL	6'5"	285	Bellevue, WA	Michigan
20.	Eddie Jones	DE	6'3"	240	Kilgore, TX	Texas
21.	Taylor Mays	S	6'4"	225	Seattle, WA	USC
22.	LeSean McCoy*	RB	5'11"	200	Harrisburg, PA	Miami
23.	Deon Beasley	CB	5'10"	168	Orange, TX	Texas
24.	Jamar Hornsby	WR	6'4"	195	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
25.	Nate Byham	TE	6'3"	215	Polk, PA	Pittsburgh
26.	C.J. Gable	S	6'1"	190	Sylmar, CA	USC
27.	Jarred Fayson	QB	6'0"	195	Tampa, FL	Florida
28.	Allen Bradford	LB	6'0"	230	San Bernardino, CA	USC
29.	Tim Tebow	QB	6'3"	225	St. Augustine, FL	Florida
30.	Connor Smith	OL	6'5"	295	Cincinnati, OH	Ohio State
31.	Ricky Sapp	DE	6'5"	225	Bamberg, SC	Clemson
32.	Akeem Hebron	LB	6'1"	195	Gaithersburg, MD	Georgia
33.	Brandon Spikes	LB	6'4"	230	Shelby, NC	Florida
34.	James Aldridge	RB	6'1"	215	Crown Point, IN	Notre Dame
35.	Antonio Logan-El	OL	6'6"	310	Forestville, MD	Penn State
36.	Dorin Dickerson	WR	6'2"	200	Oakdale, PA	Pittsburgh
37.	DeMarco Murray	RB	6'0"	185	Las Vegas, NV	Oklahoma
38.	Deantwan Whitehead	DE	6'6"	245	Birmingham, AL	Louisville
39.	Carl Johnson	OL	6'6"	335	Durham, NC	Florida
40.	Konrad Reuland	TE	6'6"	240	San Capistrano, CA	Notre Dame
41.	Josh Tatum	LB	6'1"	225	San Pablo, CA	USC
42.	Justin Boren	OL	6'4"	305	Pickerington, OH	Michigan
43.	Antwine Perez	S	6'2"	205	Westville Grove, NJ	USC
44.	J'Marcus Webb	OL	6'8"	280	Mesquite, TX	Texas
45.	Chris Bell	WR	6'3"	205	Norfolk, VA	Penn State
46.	David Ausberry	WR	6'5"	215	Lemoore, CA	USC
47.	Bart Eddins	DT	6'4"	260	Montgomery, AL	Auburn
48.	Jonas Mouton	S	6'2"	212	Los Angeles, CA	Michigan
49.	Clifton Geathers*	OL	6'7"	280	Georgetown, SC	Georgia
50.	Brandon Wood	DE	6'1"	255	Buchanan, GA	Georgia
51.	Charles Scott	RB	5'11"	223	Saline, LA	LSU
52.	Robert Rose	DE	6'5"	260	Cleveland, OH	Ohio State
53.	Pat Devlin	QB	6'4"	200	Downington, PA	Penn State
54.	Jared Odrick	DT	6'6"	285	Lebanon, PA	Penn State
55.	NaDerris Ward	TE	6'5"	245	Oakland, CA	Georgia
56.	Matt Carufel	OL	6'5"	288	Forest Lake, MN	Notre Dame
57.	Elijah Fields	WR	6'2"	210	Duquesne, PA	Pittsburgh
58.	Thaddeus Gibson	LB	6'3"	220	Euclid, OH	Ohio State
59.	Knowshon Moreno	RB	5'11"	205	Belford, NJ	Georgia
60.	Butch Lewis	DL	6'7"	300	Denver, CO	USC
61.	D'Vontrey Richardson	QB	6'1"	205	Leesburg, GA	Florida State
62.	Maurice Evans	DE	6'3"	252	Middle Village, NY	Penn State
63.	Derrick Hill	DT	6'2"	280	Oakland, CA	California
64.	Ryan Hill	CB	5'11"	186	Tallahassee, FL	Miami
65.	Isiah Williams	QB	6'2"	207	Chicago, IL	Illinois
66.	Joe Thomas	OL	6'5"	285	Parma, OH	Pittsburgh
67.	Marcus Ball	LB	6'0"	205	Stone Mountain, GA	Florida State
68.	Jevan Snead	QB	6'3"	215	Stephenville, TX	Texas
69.	Jacques McClendon	OL	6'3"	325	Chattanooga, TN	Tennessee
70.	Devin Ross	CB	5'11"	180	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	Arizona
71.	Jarrell Miller	LB	6'3"	235	Highland Spgs., VA	North Carolina
72.	Tim Hawthorne	WR	6'3"	205	Homewood, AL	Auburn
73.	Kiante Tripp	DL	6'6"	244	Atlanta, GA	Georgia
74.	Mark Johnson	LB	6'4"	230	Los Angeles, CA	Ohio State
75.	Emmanuel Moody	RB	6'1"	195	Coppell, TX	USC
76.	Damian Williams	WR	6'1"	188	Springdale, AR	Arkansas
77.	Jermaine Gresham	TE	6'7"	230	Ardmore, OK	Oklahoma
78.	Darian Hagan	CB	5'11"	180	Los Angeles, CA	California
79.	Ian Symonette	OL	6'9"	338	Nassau, Bahamas	Miami
80.	Perrish Cox	CB	6'1"	180	Waco, TX	Okla. State
81.	Terrence Austin	WR	5'11"	175	Long Beach, CA	UCLA
82.	Darrin Walls	CB	6'1"	180	Pittsburgh, PA	Notre Dame
83.	Dustin Earnest	LB	6'3"	217	Texarkana, TX	Texas
84.	Cordera Eason	RB	6'1"	235	Meridian, MS	Ole Miss
85.	Jake Locker	QB	6'2"	210	Ferndale, WA	Washington
86.	Ross Homan	LB	6'1"	237	Coldwater, OH	Ohio State
87.	A.J. Wallace	CB	6'1"	195	Pomfret, MD	Penn State
88.	Alex Cate	QB	6'2"	198	Salt Lake City, UT	Okla. State
89.	Allen Walker	WR	6'1"	200	Olive Branch, MS	Ole Miss
90.	Justin Anderson	OL	6'5"	320	Ocilla, GA	Georgia
91.	Adron Tennell	WR	6'5"	200	Irving, TX	Oklahoma
92.	Raeshon McNeil	CB	6'0"	175	Cooleemee, NC	Notre Dame
93.	Cameron Elisara	DT	6'3"	275	Spokane, WA	Washington
94.	Shareece Wright	CB	6'1"	185	Colton, CA	USC
95.	A.J. Jones	LB	6'2"	190	Tampa, FL	Florida
96.	Stevie Brown	CB	6'0"	195	Columbus, IN	Michigan
97.	Jamere Holland	WR	6'1"	180	Pacoima, CA	USC
98.	Ray Small	WR	6'0"	175	Cleveland, OH	Ohio State
99.	Kevin Collier	RB	5'11"	180	Rochester, NY	Pittsburgh
100.	Derek Simmons	DT	6'4"	275	Suisun, CA	USC

**Facing eligibility issues*

Recruiting information provided by Scout.com

Top Rising High School Seniors

Quarterbacks

Pat Bostick	6'4"	220	Lancaster, PA
John Brantley	6'2"	180	Ocala, FL
Morgan Burnett	6'4"	195	College Park, GA
Kodi Burns	6'2"	190	Fort Smith, AR
Clay Belton	6'6"	219	Clayton, OH
John Chiles	6'1"	192	Arlington, TX
Jimmy Clausen	6'3"	195	Westlake Village, CA

Running Backs

Armando Allen	5'10"	195	Hialeah, FL
Raymond Carter	6'0"	190	Los Angeles, CA
Houston Cassita	5'10"	197	Sandy, UT
John Clay	6'2"	220	Racine, WI
Lennon Creer	6'1"	190	Tatum, TX
Noel Devine	5'8"	180	Fort Myers, FL
Jonathan Dwyer	6'0"	200	Atlanta, GA
Darren Evans	6'1"	210	Indianapolis, IN
Broderick Green	6'1"	225	Little Rock, AR
Robert Hughes	6'0"	220	Chicago, IL
Ron Johnson	6'0"	180	Muskegon, MI
Caleb King	5'11"	196	Lilburn, GA
Brian Maddox	5'11"	215	Anderson, SC
Dale Martin	5'11"	200	Bolingbrook, IL
Joe McKnight	6'0"	190	River Ridge, LA
Chris Rainey	5'8"	160	Lakeland, FL
Brandon Saine	6'1"	205	Piqua, OH

Wide Receivers

Arrelious Benn	6'2"	190	Washington, DC
Curtis Brown	5'11"	170	Gilmer, TX
Gabriel Bryant	6'2"	195	Jonesboro, LA
Toney Clemons	6'3"	185	New Kensington, PA
John Ditto	6'4"	215	Monroeville, PA
Antwon Dixon	6'2"	195	Terry, MS
Leonard Hankerson	6'2"	185	Fort Lauderdale, FL
J.R. Hemmingway	6'2"	205	Conway, SC
Dwight Jones	6'5"	210	Burlington, NC
Duval Kamara	6'3"	190	Hoboken, NJ
Greg Little	6'3"	225	Durham, NC
Marcus Mathews	6'5"	200	Beaverton, OR
Ahmad Paige	6'3"	165	Sterlington, LA
Niles Paul	6'1"	185	Omaha, NE
Jay Smith	6'4"	205	Virginia Beach, VA
Golden Tate	6'0"	180	Hendersonville, TN
Deonte Thompson	6'0"	183	Belle Glade, FL

Tight Ends

Christian Ballard	6'5"	265	Lawrence, KS
Nate Chandler	6'6"	225	San Diego, CA
Billy Chavis	6'5"	215	Westbrook, TX
Andrew Devlin	6'7"	255	Pittsburgh, PA
Grant Freeman	6'7"	244	Paris, AR
Rob Gronkowski	6'6"	250	Williamsville, NY
Jordan Hammond	6'4"	225	Lakeland, FL
Da'John Harris	6'4"	250	Gardena, CA
Aaron Hernandez	6'4"	225	Bristol, CT
Ahmard Howard	6'4"	240	Brenham, TX
Blaine Irby	6'3"	235	Ventura, CA
Chris Izbicki	6'4"	240	Kirkland, WA
Mitch Joseph	6'4"	250	Iberia, LA
Devin Mahina	6'6"	225	Upland, CA
Zach Pianalto	6'4"	205	Springdale, AR
Mike Ragone	6'3"	230	Cherry Hill, NJ
Harold Turnage	6'4"	245	Houston, TX

Offensive Linemen

Tray Allen	6'5"	290	Grand Prairie, TX
Anthony Davis	6'5"	300	Piscataway, NJ
Sam DeMartinis	6'6"	250	Notre Dame, CA
John Elliot	6'5"	288	East Meadow, NJ
Jerrod Gooch	6'5"	285	Vidor, TX
Kyle Hix	6'6"	305	Aledo, TX
Emeka Iweka	6'6"	290	Seattle, WA
Chris Little	6'6"	320	Jeffersonville, GA
Josh Marks	6'4"	285	Catawissa, PA
Ryan Miller	6'8"	280	Littleton, CO
Kristofer O'Dowd	6'5"	302	Tucson, AZ
Josh Oglesby	6'7"	325	Milwaukee, WI
Quinton Richardson	6'5"	265	Columbia, SC
Darris Sawtelle	6'5"	285	Bloomfield, MI
Trinton Sturdivant	6'6"	280	Wadesboro, NC
Sione Tau	6'6"	305	Honolulu, HI
Alex Williams	6'6"	290	New Orleans, LA

Defensive Linemen

Akeem Ayers	6'3"	220	Los Angeles, CA
Allen Bailey	6'4"	245	Darien, GA
Ben Bass	6'4"	255	Plano, TX
Jontae Bumpus	6'4"	220	Muskogee, OK
Russell Carter	6'3"	230	Houston, TX
Sidel Corley	6'4"	248	McGill, AL
Carlos Dunlap	6'5"	225	North Charleston, SC
Mike Ebbitt	6'5"	250	Westlake Village, CA
Everson Griffen	6'4"	265	Avondale, AZ
Ryan Houston	6''2"	240	Matthews, NC
Brandon Joiner	6'2"	221	Killeen, TX
Michael Keck	6'5"	220	Harrisonville, MO
Duke Lemmens	6'5"	235	Westlake Village, CA
Ben Martin	6'6"	220	Cincinnati, OH
Cliff Matthews	6'5"	230	Cheraw, SC
Conrad Obi	6'4"	230	Loganville, GA
Travian Robertson	6'4"	220	Laurinburg, NC

Defensive Tackles

Marvin Austin	6'3"	300	Washington, DC
Joseph Barksdale	6'6"	315	Detroit, MI
Will Blackwell	6'3"	285	West Monroe, LA
John Brown	6'1"	285	Lakeland, FL
Luther Davis	6'4"	250	West Monroe, LA
Torrey Davis	6'5"	283	Seffner, FL
Simi Fili	6'4"	315	Salt Lake City, UT
Cameron Heyward	6'6"	270	Suwanee, GA
Andre Jones	6'4"	305	El Paso, TX
D'Angelo McCray	6'5"	280	Jacksonville, FL
Jacoby Monroe	6'2"	280	Jacksonville, FL
Kerry Murphy	6'5"	315	Hoover, AL
Po'u Palelei	6'3"	314	Las Vegas, NV
Tydreke Powell	6'3"	283	Ahoskie, NC
Brian Price	6'3"	270	Los Angeles, CA
Stephen Thomas	6'2"	280	Lancaster, TX
Kaniela Tuipulotu	6'2"	265	Kahuku, HI

Linebackers

Manny Abreu	6'4"	215	Union City, N.J.
Austin Box	6'3"	215	Enid, OK
Josh Byrnes	6'3"	220	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
Chris Colasanti	6'2"	235	Bloomfield, MI
Rennie Curren	5'11"	202	Snellville, GA
Chris Donald	6'3"	220	Huntingdon, TN
Lorenzo Edwards	6'2"	221	Orlando, FL
Chris Gallipo	6'2"	230	Anaheim, CA
Richetti Jones	6'3"	225	Dallas, TX
Randy Martinez	6'1"	235	Teaneck, N.J.
Rolando McClain	6'4"	230	Decatur, AL
Aaron Nagel	6'1"	215	Lemont, IL
Steve Paskorz	6'2"	220	Allison Park, PA
Barquell Rivers	6'1"	220	Wadesboro, NC
Keenan Robinson	6'3"	209	Plano, TX
Malcolm Smith	6'2"	215	Woodland Hills, CA
Derrick Stephens	6'3"	220	Houston, TX

Cornerbacks

Dionte Allen	6'0"	175	Orchard Lake, MI
Antwoine Baker	6'1"	185	Los Angeles, CA
Ahmad Black	5'10"	170	Lakeland, FL
Eric Berry	5'0"	181	Fairburn, GA
Terrance Boykin	5'11"	195	Wynne, AR
Gary Gray	5'11"	165	Columbia, SC
Chris Hart	6'0"	180	Nedrow, NY
Phelon Jones	6'0"	190	Mobile, AL
C.J. Fleming	5'11"	172	Highland Springs, VA
Darryl Robinson	5'10"	175	Philadelphia, PA
Mason Robinson	5'11"	180	Somerville, NJ
Earl Thomas	5'10"	175	West Orange, TX
Devon Torrance	6'1"	190	Canton, OH
Barry Valcin	5'11"	174	Port Arthur, TX
DeMarcus Van Dyke	6'1"	160	Miami, FL
Courtney Viney	5'8"	170	Fresno, CA
Donovan Warren	5'12"	185	Long Beach, CA

Safeties

Mark Barnes	6'3"	195	Columbia, SC
Jordan Bernstine	5'11"	185	Des Moines, IA
Morgan Burnett	6'4"	195	College Park, GA
Artis Chambers	6'2"	185	Fort Wayne, IN
D.J. Donley	6'3"	190	Folkston, GA
Stefoin Francios	6'2"	215	Reserve, LA
Jeremy Finch	6'2"	210	Indianapolis, IN
Chad Jones	6'1"	200	Baton Rouge, LA
Marshall Jones	6'1"	190	Westlake Village, CA
John Knox	6'0"	195	Statesboro, GA
Davon Morgan	6'0"	180	Richmond, VA
Cameron Newton	6'4"	215	Atlanta, GA
Christian Scott	5'11"	185	Dallas, TX
Harrison Smith	6'3"	215	Knoxville, TN
Charlton Sinclair	6'2"	190	Jacksonville, FL
James Thomas	5'11"	176	LaMarque, TX
Willie White	6'3"	175	Kingsland, GA

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- ❑ Did you hit 70% on your top games? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win most Monday Nights? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win most of your parlays? ☑ We Did!
- ❑ Did you win the Bowls and Playoffs? ☑ We Did!

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A18	Saints (+3) Patriots	37-27	W
A19	Jets (-2) Vikings	28-21	W
A20	Eagles (+3) Ravens	20-14	W
A25	Falcons/Jaguars ↓39	23/7	W
A26	Bears (+3) Bills	16-12	W
S 3	Notre Dame (+3) Pitt	42-21	W
S10	Iowa St (+9) Iowa	23-3	W
S11	Chiefs (-3) Jets	27-7	W
S12	Falcons (+1) Eagles	14-10	W
S16	Houston (+12) UTEP	41-44	W
S17	Mich St(+6) Notre Dame	44-41	W

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PRESENTS

2006 COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE (9–3)
Chestnut Hill, MA
A. 31 at Central Michigan
S. 9 Clemson
S. 16 BYU
S. 23 at NC State
S. 30 Maine
O. 12 Virginia Tech
O. 21 at Florida State
O. 28 Buffalo
N. 4 at Wake Forest
N. 11 Duke
N. 18 Maryland
N. 23 at Miami

CLEMSON (8–4)
Clemson, SC
S. 2 Florida Atlantic
S. 9 at Boston College
S. 16 at Florida State
S. 23 North Carolina
S. 30 Louisiana Tech
O. 7 at Wake Forest
O. 12 #Temple
O. 21 Georgia Tech
O. 26 at Virginia Tech
N. 4 Maryland
N. 11 NC State
N. 25 South Carolina
#Charlotte, NC

DUKE (1–10)
Durham, NC
S. 2 Richmond
S. 9 at Wake Forest
S.16 at Virginia Tech
S. 30 Virginia
O. 7 at Alabama
O. 14 Florida State
O. 21 Miami
O. 28 Vanderbilt
N. 4 Navy
N. 11 at Boston College
N. 18 at Georgia Tech
N. 25 North Carolina

FLORIDA STATE (8–5)
Tallahassee, FL
S. 4 at Miami
S. 9 Troy
S. 16 Clemson
S. 23 Rice
S. 30 Open
O. 5 at NC State
O. 14 at Duke
O. 21 Boston College
O. 28 at Mayland
N. 4 Virginia
N. 11 Wake Forest
N. 18 Western Michigan
N. 25 Florida

GEORGIA TECH (7–5)
Atlanta, GA
S. 2 Notre Dame
S. 9 Samford
S. 16 Troy
S. 21 Virginia
S. 30 at Virginia Tech
O. 7 Maryland
O. 21 at Clemson
O. 28 Miami
N. 4 at NC State
N. 11 at North Carolina
N. 18 Duke
N. 25 at Georgia

MARYLAND (5–6)
College Park, MD
S. 2 William & Mary
S. 9 Middle Tennessee
S. 14 at West Virginia
S. 23 Florida International
O. 7 at Georgia Tech
O. 14 at Virginia
O. 21 NC State
O. 28 Florida State
N. 4 at Clemson
N. 11 Miami
N. 18 at Boston College
N. 25 Wake Forest

MIAMI (9–3)
Coral Gables, FL
S. 4 Florida State
S. 9 Florida A&M
S. 16 at Louisville
S. 30 Houston
O. 7 North Carolina
O. 14 Florida International
O. 21 at Duke
O. 28 at Georgia Tech
N. 4 Virginia Tech
N. 11 at Maryland
N. 18 at Virginia
N. 23 Boston College

NORTH CAROLINA (5–6)
Chapel Hill, NC
S. 2 Rutgers
S. 9 Virginia Tech
S. 16 Furman
S. 23 at Clemson
O. 7 at Miami
O. 14 South Florida
O. 19 at Virginia
O. 28 Wake Forest
N. 4 at Notre Dame
N. 11 Georgia Tech
N. 18 NC State
N. 25 at Duke

NC STATE (7–5)
Raleigh, NC
S. 2 Appalachian State
S. 9 Akron
S. 16 at Southern Miss
S. 23 Boston College
O. 5 Florida State
O. 14 Wake Forest
O. 21 at Maryland
O. 28 at Virginia
N. 4 Georgia Tech
N. 11 at Clemson
N. 18 at North Carolina
N. 25 East Carolina

VIRGINIA (7–5)
Charlottesville, VA
S. 2 at Pittsburgh
S. 9 Wyoming
S. 16 Western Michigan
S. 21 at Georgia Tech
S. 30 at Duke
O. 7 at East Carolina
O. 14 Maryland
O. 19 North Carolina
O. 28 NC State
N. 4 at Florida State
N. 18 Miami
N. 25 at Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH (11–2)
Blacksburg, VA
S. 2 Northeastern
S. 9 at North Carolina
S. 16 Duke
S. 23 Cincinnati
S. 30 Georgia Tech
O. 12 at Boston College
O. 21 Southern Miss
O. 26 Clemson
N. 4 at Miami
N. 11 Kent State
N. 18 at Wake Forest
N. 25 Virginia

WAKE FOREST (4–7)
Winston-Salem, NC
S. 2 Syracuse
S. 9 Duke
S. 16 at Connecticut
S. 23 at Ole Miss
S. 30 Liberty
O. 7 Clemson
O. 14 at NC State
O. 28 at North Carolina
N. 4 Boston College
N. 11 at Florida State
N. 18 Virginia Tech
N. 25 at Maryland

BIG EAST

CINCINNATI (4–7)
Cincinnati, OH
S. 2 Eastern Kentucky
S. 8 Pittsburgh
S. 16 at Ohio State
S. 23 at Virginia Tech
S. 30 Miami (OH)
O. 7 Akron
O. 14 at Louisville
O. 21 South Florida
O. 28 Syracuse
N. 11 at West Virginia
N. 18 Rutgers
N. 25 at Connecticut

CONNECTICUT (5–6)
Storrs, CT
A. 31 Rhode Island
S. 16 Wake Forest
S. 23 at Indiana
S. 30 Navy
O. 7 at South Florida
O. 14 Army
O. 20 West Virginia
O. 28 at Rutgers
N. 11 Pittsburgh
N. 18 at Syracuse
N. 25 Cincinnati
D. 2 at Louisville

LOUISVILLE (9–3)
Louisville, KY
S. 2 Kentucky
S. 9 at Temple
S. 16 Miami
S. 23 at Kansas State
O. 6 #Middle Tennessee
O. 14 Cincinnati
O. 21 at Syracuse
N. 2 West Virginia
N. 9 at Rutgers
N. 18 South Florida
N. 25 at Pittsburgh
D. 2 Connecticut
#Nashville, TN

PITTSBURGH (5–6)
Pittsburgh, PA
S. 2 Virginia
S. 8 at Cincinnati
S. 16 Michigan State
S. 23 Citadel
S. 30 Toledo
O. 7 at Syracuse
O. 14 at UCF
O. 21 Rutgers
N. 4 at South Florida
N. 11 at Connecticut
N. 16 West Virginia
N. 25 Louisville

RUTGERS (7–5)
New Brunswick, NJ
S. 2 at North Carolina
S. 9 Illinois
S. 16 Ohio
S. 23 Howard
S. 29 at South Florida
O. 14 at Navy
O. 21 at Pittsburgh
O. 28 Connecticut
N. 9 Louisville
N. 18 at Cincinnati
N. 25 Syracuse
D. 2 at West Virginia

SOUTH FLORIDA (6–6)
Tampa, FL
S. 2 McNeese State
S. 9 Florida International
S. 16 at UCF
S. 23 at Kansas
S. 29 Rutgers
O. 7 Connecticut
O. 14 at North Carolina
O. 21 at Cincinnati
N. 4 Pittsburgh
N. 11 Syracuse
N. 18 at Louisville
N. 25 at West Virginia

SYRACUSE (1–10)
Syracuse, NY
S. 2 at Wake Forest
S. 9 Iowa
S. 16 at Illinois
S. 23 Miami (OH)
S. 30 Wyoming
O. 7 Pittsburgh
O. 14 at West Virginia
O. 21 Louisville
O. 28 at Cincinnati
N. 11 at South Florida
N. 18 Connecticut
N. 25 at Rutgers

WEST VIRGINIA (11–1)
Morgantown, WV
S. 2 Marshall
S. 9 Buffalo
S. 14 Maryland
S. 23 at East Carolina
O. 7 at Mississippi State
O. 14 Syracuse
O. 20 at Connecticut
N. 2 at Louisville
N. 11 Cincinnati
N. 16 at Pittsburgh
N. 25 South Florida
D. 2 Rutgers

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS (2–9)
Champaign, IL
S. 2 Eastern Illinois
S. 9 at Rutgers
S. 16 Syracuse
S. 23 Iowa
S. 30 at Michigan State
O. 7 Indiana
O. 14 Ohio
O. 21 at Penn State
O. 28 at Wisconsin
N. 4 Ohio State
N. 11 Purdue
N. 18 at Northwestern

INDIANA (4–7)
Bloomington, IN
S. 2 Western Michigan
S. 9 at Ball State
S. 16 Southern Illinois
S. 23 Connecticut
S. 30 Wisconsin
O. 7 at Illinois
O. 14 Iowa
O. 21 at Ohio State
O. 28 Michigan State
N. 4 at Minnesota
N. 11 Michigan
N. 18 at Purdue

IOWA (7–5)
Iowa City, IA
S. 2 Montana
S. 9 at Syracuse
S. 16 Iowa State
S. 23 at Illinois
S. 30 Ohio State
O. 7 Purdue
O. 14 at Indiana
O. 21 at Michigan
O. 28 Northern Illinois
N. 4 Northwestern
N. 11 Wisconsin
N. 18 at Minnesota

MICHIGAN (7–5)
Ann Arbor, MI
S. 2 Vanderbilt
S. 9 Central Michigan
S. 16 at Notre Dame
S. 23 Wisconsin
S. 30 at Minnesota
O. 7 Michigan State
O. 14 at Penn State
O. 21 Iowa
O. 28 Northwestern
N. 4 Ball State
N. 11 at Indiana
N. 18 at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE (5–6)
East Lansing, MI
S. 2 Idaho
S. 9 Eastern Michigan
S. 16 at Pittsburgh
S. 23 Notre Dame
S. 30 Illinois
O. 7 at Michigan
O. 14 Ohio State
O. 21 at Northwestern
O. 28 at Indiana
N. 4 Purdue
N. 11 Minnesota
N. 18 at Penn State

MINNESOTA (7–5)
Minneapolis, MN
A. 31 #at Kent State
S. 9 at California
S. 16 Temple
S. 23 at Purdue
S. 30 Michigan
O. 7 Penn State
O. 14 at Wisconsin
O. 21 North Dakota State
O. 28 at Ohio State
N. 4 Indiana
N. 11 at Michigan State
N. 18 Iowa
#Canton, OH

NORTHWESTERN (7–5)
Evanston, IL
A. 31 at Miami (OH)
S. 9 New Hampshire
S. 16 Eastern Michigan
S. 22 at Nevada
S. 30 at Penn State
O. 7 at Wisconsin
O. 14 Purdue
O. 21 Michigan State
O. 28 at Michigan
N. 4 at Iowa
N. 11 Ohio State
N. 18 Illinois

OHIO STATE (10–2)
Columbus, OH
S. 2 Northern Illinois
S. 9 at Texas
S. 16 Cincinnati
S. 23 Penn State
S. 30 at Iowa
O. 7 Bowling Green
O. 14 at Michigan State
O. 21 Indiana
O. 28 Minnesota
N. 4 at Illinois
N. 11 at Northwestern
N. 18 Michigan

PENN STATE (11–1)
University Park, PA
S. 2 Akron
S. 9 at Notre Dame
S. 16 Youngstown State
S. 23 at Ohio State
S. 30 Northwestern
O. 7 at Minnesota
O. 14 Michigan
O. 21 Illinois
O. 28 at Purdue
N. 4 at Wisconsin
N. 11 Temple
N. 18 Michigan State

PURDUE (5–6)
West Lafayette, IN
S. 2 Indiana State
S. 9 Miami (OH)
S. 16 Ball State
S. 23 Minnesota
S. 30 at Notre Dame
O. 7 at Iowa
O. 14 at Northwestern
O. 21 Wisconsin
O. 28 Penn State
N. 4 at Michigan State
N. 11 at Illinois
N. 18 Indiana
N. 25 at Hawaii

WISCONSIN (10–3)
Madison, WI
S. 2 #Bowling Green
S. 9 Western Illinois
S. 16 San Diego State
S. 23 at Michigan
S. 30 at Indiana
O. 7 Northwestern
O. 14 Minnesota
O. 21 at Purdue
O. 28 Illinois
N. 4 Penn State
N. 11 at Iowa
N. 18 Buffalo
#Cleveland, OH

BIG 12

BAYLOR (5–6)
Waco, TX
S. 2 TCU
S. 9 Northwestern State
S. 16 #Washington State
S. 23 Army
S. 30 Kansas State
O. 7 at Colorado
O. 14 at Texas
O. 21 Kansas
O. 28 Texas A&M
N. 4 at Texas Tech
N. 11 at Oklahoma State
N. 18 Oklahoma
#Seattle, WA

COLORADO (7–6)
Boulder, CO
S. 2 Montana State
S. 9 #Colorado State
S. 16 Arizona State
S. 23 at Georgia
S. 30 at Missouri
O. 7 Baylor
O. 14 Texas Tech
O. 21 at Oklahoma
O. 28 at Kansas
N. 4 Kansas State
N. 11 Iowa State
N. 24 at Nebraska
#Denver, CO

IOWA STATE (7–5)
Ames, IA
A. 31 Toledo
S. 9 UNLV
S. 16 at Iowa
S. 23 at Texas
S. 30 Northern Iowa
O. 7 Nebraska
O. 14 at Oklahoma
O. 21 Texas Tech
O. 28 at Kansas State
N. 4 Kansas
N. 11 at Colorado
N. 18 Missouri

KANSAS (7–5)
Lawrence, KS
S. 2 Northwestern State
S. 9 UL Monroe
S. 16 at Toledo
S. 23 South Florida
S. 30 at Nebraska
O. 7 Texas A&M
O. 14 Oklahoma State
O. 21 at Baylor
O. 28 Colorado
N. 4 at Iowa State
N. 18 Kansas State
N. 25 at Missouri

KANSAS STATE (5–6)
Manhattan, KS
S. 2 Illinois State
S. 9 Florida Atlantic
S. 16 Marshall
S. 23 Louisville
S. 30 at Baylor
O. 7 Oklahoma State
O. 14 Nebraska
O. 21 at Missouri
O. 28 Iowa State
N. 4 at Colorado
N. 11 Texas
N. 18 at Kansas

MISSOURI (7–5)
Columbia, MO
S. 2 Murray State
S. 9 Ole Miss
S. 16 at New Mexico
S. 23 Ohio
S. 30 Colorado
O. 7 at Texas Tech
O. 14 at Texas A&M
O. 21 Kansas State
O. 28 Oklahoma
N. 4 at Nebraska
N. 18 at Iowa State
N. 25 Kansas

NEBRASKA (8–4)
Lincoln, NE
S. 2 Louisiana Tech
S. 9 Nicholls State
S. 16 at USC
S. 23 Troy
S. 30 Kansas
O. 7 at Iowa State
O. 14 at Kansas State
O. 21 Texas
O. 28 at Oklahoma State
N. 4 Missouri
N. 11 at Texas A&M
N. 24 Colorado

OKLAHOMA (8–4)
Norman, OK
S. 2 UAB
S. 9 Washington
S. 16 at Oregon
S. 23 Middle Tennessee
O. 7 #Texas
O. 14 Iowa State
O. 21 Colorado
O. 28 at Missouri
N. 4 at Texas A&M
N. 11 Texas Tech
N. 18 at Baylor
N. 25 at Oklahoma State
#Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE (4–7)
Stillwater, OK
S. 2 Missouri State
S. 9 #at Arkansas State
S. 16 Florida Atlantic
S. 23 at Houston
O. 7 at Kansas State
O. 14 at Kansas
O. 21 Texas A&M
O. 28 Nebraska
N. 4 at Texas
N. 11 Baylor
N. 18 at Texas Tech
N. 25 Oklahoma
#at Little Rock, AR

TEXAS (13–0)
Austin, TX
S. 2 North Texas
S. 9 Ohio State
S. 16 #Rice
S. 23 Iowa State
S. 30 Sam Houston State
O. 7 %Oklahoma
O. 14 Baylor
O. 21 at Nebraska
O. 28 at Texas Tech
N. 4 Oklahoma State
N. 11 at Kansas State
N. 24 Texas A&M
#Reliant Stadium: Houston
%Dallas, TX

TEXAS A&M (5–6)
College Station, TX
S. 2 The Citadel
S. 9 UL Lafayette
S. 16 #Army
S. 23 Louisiana Tech
S. 30 Texas Tech
O. 7 at Kansas
O. 14 Missouri
O. 21 at Oklahoma State
O. 28 at Baylor
N. 4 Oklahoma
N. 11 Nebraska
N. 24 at Texas
#San Antonio, TX

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2006 I-A COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

TEXAS TECH (9–3)
Lubbock, TX
S. 2 SMU
S. 9 at UTEP
S. 16 at TCU
S. 23 SE Louisiana
S. 30 at Texas A&M
O. 7 Missouri
O. 14 at Colorado
O. 21 at Iowa State
O. 28 Texas
N. 4 Baylor
N. 11 at Oklahoma
N. 18 Oklahoma State

C-USA

EAST CAROLINA (5–6)
Greenville, NC
S. 2 at Navy
S. 9 at UAB
S. 16 Memphis
S. 23 West Virginia
O. 7 Virginia
O. 14 Tulsa
O. 21 SMU
O. 28 at Southern Miss
N. 4 at UCF
N. 11 Marshall
N. 18 at Rice
N. 25 at NC State

HOUSTON (6–6)
Houston, TX
S. 2 at Rice
S. 9 Tulane
S. 16 Grambling State
S. 23 Oklahoma State
S. 30 at Miami
O. 7 UL Lafayette
O. 14 at Southern Miss
O. 21 UTEP
O. 28 UCF
N. 4 Tulsa
N. 11 at SMU
N. 18 at Memphis

MARSHALL (4–7)
Huntington, WV
S. 2 at West Virginia
S. 9 Hofstra
S. 16 at Kansas State
S. 23 at Tennessee
O. 4 UCF
O. 14 at SMU
O. 21 at UAB
O. 28 Memphis
N. 4 Tulane
N. 11 at East Carolina
N. 18 UTEP
N. 25 at Southern Miss

MEMPHIS (7–5)
Memphis, TN
S. 2 at Ole Miss
S. 9 Chattanooga
S. 16 at East Carolina
S. 30 Tennessee
O. 7 at UAB
O. 14 Arkansas State
O. 21 Tulsa
O. 28 at Marshall
N. 4 Southern Miss
N. 11 UCF
N. 18 Houston
N. 25 at UTEP

RICE (1–10)
Houston, TX
S. 2 Houston
S. 9 at UCLA
S. 16 #Texas
S. 23 at Florida State
S. 30 at Army
O. 7 at Tulane
O. 14 UAB
O. 21 at UCF
N. 4 at UTEP
N. 11 at Tulsa
N. 18 East Carolina
N. 25 SMU
#Reliant Stadium: Houston

SMU (5–6)
Dallas, TX
S. 2 at Texas Tech
S. 9 at North Texas
S. 16 Sam Houston State
S. 23 Arkansas State
S. 30 at Tulane
O. 7 at UTEP
O. 14 Marshall
O. 21 at East Carolina
O. 31 UAB
N. 11 Houston
N. 18 Tulsa
N. 25 at Rice

SOUTHERN MISS (7–5)
Hattiesburg, MS
S. 2 at Florida
S. 9 SE Louisiana
S. 16 NC State
S. 26 at UCF
O. 3 at Tulsa
O. 14 Houston
O. 21 at Virginia Tech
O. 28 East Carolina
N. 4 at Memphis
N. 11 at Tulane
N. 18 UAB
N. 25 Marshall

TULANE (2–9)
New Orleans, LA
S. 9 at Houston
S. 16 at Mississippi State
S. 23 at LSU
S. 30 SMU
O. 7 Rice
O. 14 at UTEP
O. 21 at Auburn
O. 28 Army
N. 4 at Marshall
N. 11 Southern Miss
N. 18 UCF
N. 25 at Tulsa

TULSA (9–4)
Tulsa, OK
A. 31 Stephen F. Austin
S. 9 at BYU
S. 16 North Texas
S. 23 at Navy
O. 3 Southern Miss
O. 14 at East Carolina
O. 21 at Memphis
O. 27 UTEP
N. 4 at Houston
N. 11 Rice
N. 18 at SMU
N. 25 Tulane

UAB (5–6)
Birmingham, AL
S. 2 at Oklahoma
S. 9 East Carolina
S. 16 at Georgia
S. 23 Mississippi State
S. 30 Troy
O. 7 Memphis
O. 14 at Rice
O. 21 Marshall
O. 31 at SMU
N. 10 UTEP
N. 18 at Southern Miss
N. 25 at UCF

UCF (8–5)
Orlando, FL
S. 2 Villanova
S. 9 at Florida
S. 16 South Florida
S. 26 Southern Miss
O. 4 at Marshall
O. 13 Pittsburgh
O. 21 Rice
O. 28 at Houston
N. 4 East Carolina
N. 11 at Memphis
N. 18 at Tulane
N. 25 UAB

UTEP (8–4)
El Paso, TX
A. 31 at San Diego State
S. 9 Texas Tech
S. 23 at New Mexico
S. 30 New Mexico State
O. 7 SMU
O. 14 Tulane
O. 21 at Houston
O. 27 at Tulsa
N. 4 Rice
N. 10 at UAB
N. 18 at Marshall
N. 25 Memphis

MAC

AKRON (7–6)
Akron, OH
S. 2 at Penn State
S. 9 at NC State
S. 16 at Central Michigan
S. 23 North Texas
S. 30 at Kent State
O. 7 at Cincinnati
O. 21 Miami (OH)
O. 28 at Toledo
N. 4 Bowling Green
N. 9 Buffalo
N. 16 at Ohio
N. 24 Western Michigan

BALL STATE (4–7)
Muncie, IN
A. 31 Eastern Michigan
S. 9 Indiana
S. 16 at Purdue
S. 23 North Dakota State
S. 30 Northern Illinois
O. 7 at Buffalo
O. 14 at Central Michigan
O. 21 Western Michigan
O. 28 at Miami (OH)
N. 4 at Michigan
N. 14 at Toledo
N. 24 Kent State

BOWLING GREEN (6–5)
Bowling Green, OH
S. 2 #Wisconsin
S. 9 Buffalo
S. 16 at Florida International
S. 23 Kent State
S. 30 at Ohio
O. 7 at Ohio State
O. 14 Eastern Michigan
O. 19 at Central Michigan
O. 28 at Temple
N. 4 at Akron
N. 15 Miami (OH)
N. 21 at Toledo
#Cleveland, OH

BUFFALO (1–10)
Buffalo, NY
A. 31 Temple
S. 9 at Bowling Green
S. 16 at Northern Illinois
S. 23 at Auburn
O. 7 Ball State
O. 14 Miami (OH)
O. 21 at Ohio
O. 28 at Boston College
N. 4 Kent State
N. 9 at Akron
N. 18 at Wisconsin
N. 24 Central Michigan

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (6–5)
Mt. Pleasant, MI
A. 31 Boston College
S. 9 at Michigan
S. 16 Akron
S. 23 at Eastern Michigan
S. 30 at Kentucky
O. 7 at Toledo
O. 14 Ball State
O. 19 Bowling Green
N. 4 at Temple
N. 10 Western Michigan
N. 17 at Northern Illinois
N. 24 at Buffalo

EASTERN MICHIGAN (4–7)
Ypsilanti, MI
A. 31 at Ball State
S. 9 at Michigan State
S. 16 at Northwestern
S. 23 Central Michigan
S. 30 at UL Lafayette
O. 14 at Bowling Green
O. 21 Toledo
O. 28 at Western Michigan
N. 4 Ohio
N. 11 Navy
N. 18 at Kent State
N. 24 Northern Illinois

KENT STATE (1–10)
Kent, OH
A. 31 #Minnesota
S. 9 at Army
S. 16 at Miami (OH)
S. 23 at Bowling Green
S. 30 Akron
O. 7 at Temple
O. 14 Toledo
O. 28 Ohio
N. 4 at Buffalo
N. 11 at Virginia Tech
N. 18 Eastern Michigan
N. 24 at Ball State
#Canton, OH

MIAMI (OH) (7–4)
Oxford, OH
A. 31 Northwestern
S. 9 at Purdue
S. 16 Kent State
S. 23 at Syracuse
S. 30 at Cincinnati
O. 7 Northern Illinois
O. 14 at Buffalo
O. 21 at Akron
O. 28 Ball State
N. 4 at Western Michigan
N. 15 at Bowling Green
N. 24 Ohio

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (7–5)
Dekalb, IL
S. 2 at Ohio State
S. 9 Ohio
S. 16 Buffalo
S. 23 Indiana State
S. 30 at Ball State
O. 7 at Miami (OH)
O. 14 at Western Michigan
O. 21 Temple
O. 28 at Iowa
N. 7 Toledo
N. 17 Central Michigan
N. 24 at Eastern Michigan

OHIO (4–7)
Athens, OH
S. 2 Tennessee-Martin
S. 9 at Northern Illinois
S. 16 at Rutgers
S. 23 at Missouri
S. 30 Bowling Green
O. 7 Western Michigan
O. 14 at Illinois
O. 21 Buffalo
O. 28 at Kent State
N. 4 at Eastern Michigan
N. 16 Akron
N. 24 at Miami (OH)

TOLEDO (9–3)
Toledo, OH
A. 31 at Iowa State
S. 9 at Western Michigan
S. 15 Kansas
S. 23 McNeese State
S. 30 at Pittsburgh
O. 7 Central Michigan
O. 14 at Kent State
O. 21 at Eastern Michigan
O. 28 Akron
N. 7 at Northern Illinois
N. 14 Ball State
N. 21 Bowling Green

WESTERN MICHIGAN (7–4)
Kalamazoo, MI
S. 2 at Indiana
S. 9 Toledo
S. 16 at Virginia
S. 23 Temple
O. 7 at Ohio
O. 14 Northern Illinois
O. 21 at Ball State
O. 28 Eastern Michigan
N. 4 Miami (OH)
N. 10 at Central Michigan
N. 18 at Florida State
N. 24 at Akron

MWC

AIR FORCE (4–7)
Colorado Springs, CO
S. 9 at Tennessee
S. 23 at Wyoming
S. 30 New Mexico
O. 7 Navy
O. 12 Colorado State
O. 21 at San Diego State
O. 28 BYU
N. 3 at Army
N. 11 Notre Dame
N. 18 Utah
N. 24 at UNLV
D. 2 at TCU

BYU (6–6)
Provo, UT
S. 2 at Arizona
S. 9 Tulsa
S. 16 at Boston College
S. 23 Utah State
S. 28 at TCU
O. 7 San Diego State
O. 21 UNLV
O. 28 at Air Force
N. 4 at Colorado State
N. 9 Wyoming
N. 18 New Mexico
N. 25 at Utah

COLORADO STATE (6–6)
Fort Collins, CO
S. 2 Weber State
S. 9 #Colorado
S. 16 at Nevada
S. 30 at Fresno State
O. 7 UNLV
O. 12 at Air Force
O. 21 at Wyoming
O. 28 New Mexico
N. 4 BYU
N. 11 at Utah
N. 25 TCU
D. 2 at San Diego State
#Denver, CO

NEW MEXICO (6–5)
Albuquerque, NM
S. 2 Portland State
S. 9 at New Mexico State
S. 16 Missouri
S. 23 UTEP
S. 30 at Air Force
O. 7 Wyoming
O. 14 at UNLV
O. 19 Utah
O. 28 at Colorado State
N. 11 TCU
N. 18 at BYU
N. 25 San Diego State

SAN DIEGO STATE (5–7)
San Diego, CA
A. 31 UTEP
S. 16 at Wisconsin
S. 23 Utah
S. 30 at San Jose State
O. 7 at BYU
O. 21 Air Force
O. 28 Cal Poly
N. 4 at Wyoming
N. 11 UNLV
N. 18 at TCU
N. 25 at New Mexico
D. 2 Colorado State

TCU (11–1)
Fort Worth, TX
S. 2 at Baylor
S. 9 UC Davis
S. 16 Texas Tech
S. 28 BYU
O. 5 at Utah
O. 21 at Army
O. 28 Wyoming
N. 4 at UNLV
N. 11 at New Mexico
N. 18 San Diego State
N. 25 at Colorado State
D. 2 Air Force

UNLV (2–9)
Las Vegas, NV
S. 2 Idaho State
S. 9 at Iowa State
S. 16 at Hawaii
S. 30 Nevada
O. 7 at Colorado State
O. 14 New Mexico
O. 21 at BYU
O. 28 at Utah
N. 4 TCU
N. 11 at San Diego State
N. 18 Wyoming
N. 24 Air Force

UTAH (7–5)
Salt Lake City, UT
S. 2 at UCLA
S. 9 Northern Arizona
S. 16 at Utah State
S. 23 at San Diego State
S. 30 Boise State
O. 5 TCU
O. 14 at Wyoming
O. 19 at New Mexico
O. 28 UNLV
N. 11 Colorado State
N. 18 at Air Force
N. 25 BYU

WYOMING (4–7)
Laramie, WY
S. 2 Utah State
S. 9 at Virginia
S. 16 Boise State
S. 23 Air Force
S. 30 at Syracuse
O. 7 at New Mexico
O. 14 Utah
O. 21 Colorado State
O. 28 at TCU
N. 4 San Diego State
N. 9 at BYU
N. 18 at UNLV

PAC-10

ARIZONA (3–8)
Tucson, AZ
S. 2 BYU
S. 9 at LSU
S. 16 Stephen F. Austin
S. 23 USC
S. 30 Washington
O. 7 at UCLA
O. 14 at Stanford
O. 21 Oregon State
N. 4 at Washington State
N. 11 California
N. 18 at Oregon
N. 25 Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE (7–5)
Tempe, AZ
A. 31 Northern Arizona
S. 9 Nevada
S. 16 at Colorado
S. 23 at California
S. 30 Oregon
O. 14 at USC
O. 21 Stanford
O. 28 at Washington
N. 4 at Oregon State
N. 11 Washington State
N. 18 UCLA
N. 25 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA (8–4)
Berkeley, CA
S. 2 at Tennessee
S. 9 Minnesota
S. 16 Portland State
S. 23 Arizona State
S. 30 at Oregon State
O. 7 Oregon
O. 14 at Washington State
O. 21 Washington
N. 4 UCLA
N. 11 at Arizona
N. 18 at USC
D. 2 Stanford

OREGON (10–2)
Eugene, OR
S. 2 Stanford
S. 9 at Fresno State
S. 16 Oklahoma
S. 30 at Arizona State
O. 7 at California
O. 14 UCLA
O. 21 at Washington State
O. 28 Portland State
N. 4 Washington
N. 11 at USC
N. 18 Arizona
N. 25 at Oregon State

OREGON STATE (5–6)
Corvallis, OR
A. 31 Eastern Washington
S. 7 at Boise State
S. 23 Idaho
S. 30 California
O. 7 Washington State
O. 14 at Washington
O. 21 at Arizona
O. 28 USC
N. 4 Arizona State
N. 11 at UCLA
N. 18 at Stanford
N. 25 Oregon
D. 2 at Hawaii

STANFORD (5–6)
Stanford, CA
S. 2 at Oregon
S. 9 at San Jose State
S. 16 Navy
S. 23 Washington State
S. 30 at UCLA
O. 7 at Notre Dame
O. 14 Arizona
O. 21 at Arizona State
N. 4 USC
N. 11 at Washington
N. 18 Oregon State
D. 2 at California

UCLA (10–2)
Los Angeles, CA
S. 2 Utah
S. 9 Rice
S. 23 at Washington
S. 30 Stanford
O. 7 Arizona
O. 14 at Oregon
O. 21 at Notre Dame
O. 28 Washington State
N. 4 at California
N. 11 Oregon State
N. 18 at Arizona State
D. 2 USC

USC (12–1)
Los Angeles, CA
S. 2 at Arkansas
S. 16 Nebraska
S. 23 at Arizona
S. 30 at Washington State
O. 7 Washington
O. 14 Arizona State
O. 28 at Oregon State
N. 4 at Stanford
N. 11 Oregon
N. 18 California
N. 25 Notre Dame
D. 2 at UCLA

WASHINGTON (2–9)
Seattle, WA
S. 2 San Jose State
S. 9 at Oklahoma
S. 16 Fresno State
S. 23 UCLA
S. 30 at Arizona
O. 7 at USC
O. 14 Oregon State
O. 21 at California
O. 28 Arizona State
N. 4 at Oregon
N. 11 Stanford
N. 18 at Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE (4–7)
Pullman, WA
S. 2 at Auburn
S. 9 Idaho
S. 16 #Baylor
S. 23 at Stanford
S. 30 USC
O. 7 at Oregon State
O. 14 California
O. 21 Oregon
O. 28 at UCLA
N. 4 Arizona
N. 11 at Arizona State
N. 18 Washington
#Seattle, WA

SEC

ALABAMA (10–2)
Tuscaloosa, AL
S. 2 Hawaii
S. 9 Vanderbilt
S. 16 UL Monroe
S. 23 at Arkansas
S. 30 at Florida
O. 7 Duke
O. 14 Ole Miss
O. 21 at Tennessee
O. 28 Florida International
N. 4 Mississippi State
N. 11 at LSU
N. 18 Auburn

ARKANSAS (4–7)
Fayetteville, AR
S. 2 USC
S. 9 Utah State
S. 16 at Vanderbilt
S. 23 Alabama
O. 7 at Auburn
O. 14 SE Missouri State
O. 21 Ole Miss
O. 28 #UL Monroe
N. 4 at South Carolina
N. 11 Tennessee
N. 18 at Mississippi State
N. 25 #LSU
#Little Rock, AR

AUBURN (9–3)
Auburn, AL
S. 2 Washington State
S. 9 at Mississippi State
S. 16 LSU
S. 23 Buffalo
S. 28 at South Carolina
O. 7 Arkansas
O. 14 Florida
O. 21 Tulane
O. 28 at Ole Miss
N. 4 Arkansas State
N. 11 Georgia
N. 18 at Alabama

FLORIDA (9–3)
Gainesville, FL
S. 2 Southern Miss
S. 9 UCF
S. 16 at Tennessee
S. 23 Kentucky
S. 30 Alabama
O. 7 LSU
O. 14 at Auburn
O. 28 #Georgia
N. 4 at Vanderbilt
N. 11 South Carolina
N. 18 Western Carolina
N. 25 at Florida State
#Jacksonville, FL

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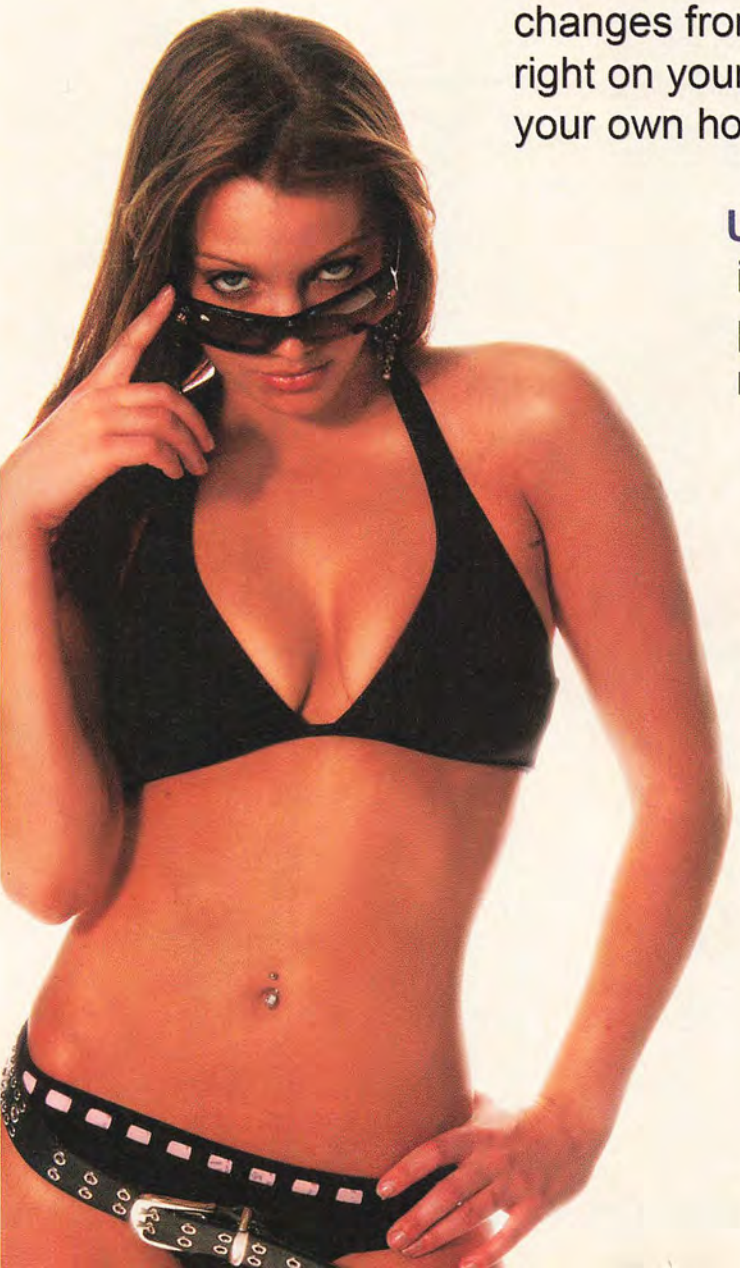

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2006 I-A COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

GEORGIA (10–3)
Athens, GA
S. 2 Western Kentucky
S. 9 at South Carolina
S. 16 UAB
S. 23 Colorado
S. 30 at Ole Miss
O. 7 Tennessee
O. 14 Vanderbilt
O. 21 Mississippi State
O. 28 #Florida
N. 4 at Kentucky
N. 11 at Auburn
N. 25 Georgia Tech
#Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY (3–8)
Lexington, KY
S. 2 at Louisville
S. 9 Texas State
S. 16 Ole Miss
S. 23 at Florida
S. 30 Central Michigan
O. 7 South Carolina
O. 14 at LSU
O. 28 at Mississippi State
N. 4 Georgia
N. 11 Vanderbilt
N. 18 Louisiana-Monroe
N. 25 at Tennessee

LSU (11–2)
Baton Rouge, LA
S. 2 UL Lafayette
S. 9 Arizona
S. 16 at Auburn
S. 23 Tulane
S. 30 Mississippi State
O. 7 at Florida
O. 14 Kentucky
O. 21 Fresno State
N. 4 at Tennessee
N. 11 Alabama
N. 18 Ole Miss
N. 25 #Arkansas
#Little Rock, AR

MISSISSIPPI STATE (3–8)
Starkville, MS
A. 31 South Carolina
S. 9 Auburn
S. 16 Tulane
S. 23 at UAB
S. 30 at LSU
O. 7 West Virginia
O. 14 Jacksonville State
O. 21 at Georgia
O. 28 Kentucky
N. 4 at Alabama
N. 18 Arkansas
N. 25 at Ole Miss

OLE MISS (3–8)
Oxford, MS
S. 2 Memphis
S. 9 at Missouri
S. 16 at Kentucky
S. 23 Wake Forest
S. 30 Georgia
O. 7 Vanderbilt
O. 14 at Alabama
O. 21 at Arkansas
O. 28 Auburn
N. 4 Northwestern State
N. 18 at LSU
N. 25 Mississippi State

SOUTH CAROLINA (7–5)
Columbia, SC
A. 31 at Mississippi State
S. 9 Georgia
S. 16 Wofford
S. 23 Florida Atlantic
S. 28 Auburn
O. 7 at Kentucky
O. 21 at Vanderbilt
O. 28 Tennessee
N. 4 Arkansas
N. 11 at Florida
N. 18 Middle Tennessee
N. 25 at Clemson

TENNESSEE (5–6)
Knoxville, TN
S. 2 California
S. 9 Air Force
S. 16 Florida
S. 23 Marshall
S. 30 at Memphis
O. 7 at Georgia
O. 21 Alabama
O. 28 at South Carolina
N. 4 LSU
N. 11 at Arkansas
N. 18 at Vanderbilt
N. 25 Kentucky

VANDERBILT (5–6)
Nashville, TN
S. 2 at Michigan
S. 9 at Alabama
S. 16 Arkansas
S. 23 Tennessee State
S. 30 Temple
O. 7 at Ole Miss
O. 14 at Georgia
O. 21 South Carolina
O. 28 at Duke
N. 4 Florida
N. 11 at Kentucky
N. 18 Tennessee

SUNBELT

ARKANSAS STATE (6–6)
Jonesboro, AR
S. 2 Army
S. 9 #Oklahoma State
S. 23 at SMU
S. 30 at Florida International
O. 7 UL Monroe
O. 14 at Memphis
O. 21 North Texas
O. 28 at Florida Atlantic
N. 4 at Auburn
N. 11 Middle Tennessee
N. 18 at Troy
N. 25 at UL Lafayette
#Little Rock, AR

FLORIDA ATLANTIC (2–9)
Boca Raton, FL
S. 2 at Clemson
S. 9 at Kansas State
S. 16 at Oklahoma State
S. 23 at South Carolina
S. 30 at UL Monroe
O. 18 UL Lafayette
O. 28 Arkansas State
N. 4 at Middle Tennessee
N. 11 Troy
N. 18 at North Texas
N. 25 Florida International

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL (5–6)
Miami, FL
A. 31 at Middle Tennessee
S. 9 at South Florida
S. 16 Bowling Green
S. 23 at Maryland
S. 30 Arkansas State
O. 14 at Miami
O. 21 at North Texas
O. 28 at Alabama
N. 4 UL Monroe
N. 18 UL Lafayette
N. 25 at Florida Atlantic
D. 2 Troy

UL LAFAYETTE (6–5)
Lafayette, LA
S. 2 at LSU
S. 9 at Texas A&M
S. 16 McNeese State
S. 30 Eastern Michigan
O. 7 at Houston
O. 18 at Florida Atlantic
O. 28 Middle Tennessee
N. 4 at Troy
N. 11 North Texas
N. 18 at Florida International
N. 25 Arkansas State
D. 2 UL Monroe

UL MONROE (5–6)
Monroe, LA
S. 2 Alcorn State
S. 9 at Kansas
S. 16 at Alabama
S. 30 Florida Atlantic
O. 7 at Arkansas State
O. 14 at Troy
O. 21 Middle Tennessee
O. 28 #Arkansas
N. 11 at Florida International
N. 18 at Kentucky
N. 25 North Texas
D. 2 at UL Lafayette
#Little Rock, AR

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (4–7)
Murfreesboro, TN
A. 31 Florida International
S. 9 at Maryland
S. 14 Tennessee Tech
S. 23 at Oklahoma
S. 30 at North Texas
O. 6 #Louisville
O. 21 at UL Monroe
O. 28 at UL Lafayette
N. 4 Florida Atlantic
N. 11 at Arkansas State
N. 18 at South Carolina
N. 25 Troy
#Nashville, TN

NORTH TEXAS (2–9)
Denton, TX
S. 2 at Texas
S. 9 SMU
S. 16 at Tulsa
S. 23 at Akron
S. 30 Middle Tennessee
O. 7 Florida International
O. 21 at Arkansas State
O. 28 at Troy
N. 4 Louisiana Tech
N. 11 at UL Lafayette
N. 18 Florida Atlantic
N. 25 at UL Monroe

TROY (4–7)
Troy, AL
S. 2 Alabama State
S. 9 at Florida State
S. 16 at Georgia Tech
S. 23 at Nebraska
S. 30 at UAB
O. 14 UL Monroe
O. 28 North Texas
N. 4 UL Lafayette
N. 11 at Florida Atlantic
N. 18 Arkansas State
N. 25 at Middle Tennessee
D. 2 at Florida International

WAC

BOISE STATE (9–4)
Boise, ID
A. 31 Sacramento State
S. 7 Oregon State
S. 16 at Wyoming
S. 23 Hawaii
S. 30 at Utah
O. 7 Louisiana Tech
O. 14 at New Mexico State
O. 21 at Idaho
N. 1 Fresno State
N. 11 at San Jose State
N. 18 Utah State
N. 25 at Nevada

FRESNO STATE (8–5)
Fresno, CA
S. 1 Nevada
S. 9 Oregon
S. 16 at Washington
S. 30 Colorado State
O. 7 at Utah State
O. 14 Hawaii
O. 21 at LSU
N. 1 at Boise State
N. 11 New Mexico State
N. 18 Idaho
N. 24 at Louisiana Tech
D. 2 at San Jose State

HAWAII (5–7)
Honolulu, HI
S. 2 at Alabama
S. 16 UNLV
S. 23 at Boise State
S. 30 Eastern Illinois
O. 7 Nevada
O. 14 at Fresno State
O. 21 at New Mexico State
O. 28 Idaho
N. 4 at Utah State
N. 11 Louisiana Tech
N. 18 San Jose State
N. 25 Purdue
D. 2 Oregon State

IDAHO (2–9)
Moscow, ID
S. 2 at Michigan State
S. 9 at Washington State
S. 16 Idaho State
S. 23 at Oregon State
S. 30 at Utah State
O. 7 New Mexico State
O. 14 at Louisiana Tech
O. 21 Boise State
O. 28 at Hawaii
N. 4 Nevada
N. 18 at Fresno State
N. 25 San Jose State

LOUISIANA TECH (7–4)
Ruston, LA
S. 2 at Nebraska
S. 16 Nicholls State
S. 23 at Texas A&M
S. 30 at Clemson
O. 7 at Boise State
O. 14 Idaho
O. 21 Utah State
O. 28 at San Jose State
N. 4 at North Texas
N. 11 at Hawaii
N. 18 Nevada
N. 24 Fresno State
D. 2 at New Mexico State

NEVADA (9–3)
Reno, NV
S. 1 at Fresno State
S. 9 at Arizona State
S. 16 Colorado State
S. 22 Northwestern
S. 30 at UNLV
O. 7 at Hawaii
O. 21 San Jose State
O. 28 New Mexico State
N. 4 at Idaho
N. 11 Utah State
N. 18 at Louisiana Tech
N. 25 Boise State

NEW MEXICO STATE (0–12)
Las Cruces, NM
A. 31 SE Louisiana
S. 9 New Mexico
S. 16 Texas Southern
S. 30 at UTEP
O. 7 at Idaho
O. 14 Boise State
O. 21 Hawaii
O. 28 at Nevada
N. 4 San Jose State
N. 11 at Fresno State
N. 25 at Utah State
D. 2 Louisiana Tech

SAN JOSE STATE (3–8)
San Jose, CA
S. 2 at Washington
S. 9 Stanford
S. 23 Cal Poly
S. 30 San Diego State
O. 14 Utah State
O. 21 at Nevada
O. 28 Louisiana Tech
N. 4 at New Mexico State
N. 11 Boise State
N. 18 at Hawaii
N. 25 at Idaho
D. 2 Fresno State

UTAH STATE (3–8)
Logan, UT
S. 2 at Wyoming
S. 9 at Arkansas
S. 16 Utah
S. 23 at BYU
S. 30 Idaho
O. 7 Fresno State
O. 14 at San Jose State
O. 21 at Louisiana Tech
N. 4 Hawaii
N. 11 at Nevada
N. 18 at Boise State
N. 25 New Mexico State

INDEPENDENTS

ARMY (4–7)
West Point, NY
S. 2 at Arkansas State
S. 9 Kent State
S. 16 #Texas A&M
S. 23 at Baylor
S. 30 Rice
O. 7 VMI
O. 14 at Connecticut
O. 21 TCU
O. 28 at Tulane
N. 3 Air Force
N. 18 at Notre Dame
D. 2 %Navy
#San Antonio, TX
%Philadelphia, PA

NAVY (8–4)
Annapolis, MD
S. 2 East Carolina
S. 9 Massachusetts
S. 16 at Stanford
S. 23 Tulsa
S. 30 at Connecticut
O. 7 at Air Force
O. 14 Rutgers
O. 28 #Notre Dame
N. 4 at Duke
N. 11 at Eastern Michigan
N. 18 Temple
D. 2 %Army
#Baltimore, MD
%Philadelphia, PA

NOTRE DAME (9–3)
South Bend, IN
S. 2 at Georgia Tech
S. 9 Penn State
S. 16 Michigan
S. 23 at Michigan State
S. 30 Purdue
O. 7 Stanford
O. 21 UCLA
O. 28 #Navy
N. 4 North Carolina
N. 11 at Air Force
N. 18 Army
N. 25 at USC
#Baltimore, MD

TEMPLE (0–11)
Philadelphia, PA
A. 31 at Buffalo
S. 9 Louisville
S. 16 at Minnesota
S. 23 at Western Michigan
S. 30 at Vanderbilt
O. 7 Kent State
O. 12 #Clemson
O. 21 at Northern Illinois
O. 28 Bowling Green
N. 4 Central Michigan
N. 11 at Penn State
N. 18 at Navy
#Charlotte, NC

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2006 I-AA COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

ATLANTIC 10

DELAWARE (6–5)
Newark, DE
S. 9 West Chester
S. 16 Albany
S. 23 at Rhode Island
S. 30 New Hampshire
O. 7 at Northeastern
O. 14 Hofstra
O. 21 at Richmond
O. 28 Towson
N. 4 at James Madison
N. 11 William & Mary
N. 18 Villanova

HOFSTRA (7–4)
Hempstead, NY
A. 31 at Stony Brook
S. 9 at Marshall
S. 23 Towson
S. 30 at William & Mary
O. 7 Villanova
O. 14 at Delaware
O. 21 at Maine
O. 28 at New Hampshire
N. 4 Rhode Island
N. 11 Northeastern
N. 18 at Massachusetts

JAMES MADISON (7–4)
Harrisonburg, VA
S. 2 Bloomsburg
S. 9 at Appalachian State
S. 23 Northeastern
S. 30 at VMI
O. 7 Rhode Island
O. 14 at New Hampshire
O. 21 William & Mary
O. 28 at Richmond
N. 4 Delaware
N. 11 at Villanova
N. 18 at Towson

MAINE (5–6)
Orono, ME
S. 9 Youngstown State
S. 16 at William & Mary
S. 30 at Boston College
O. 7 at Towson
O. 14 Villanova
O. 21 Hofstra
O. 28 at Rhode Island
N. 4 Northeastern
N. 11 at Massachusetts
N. 18 New Hampshire

MASSACHUSETTS (7–4)
Amherst, MA
S. 2 Colgate
S. 9 at Navy
S. 16 at Villanova
S. 23 Stony Brook
O. 7 William & Mary
O. 14 at Towson
O. 21 Rhode Island
O. 28 at Northeastern
N. 4 at New Hampshire
N. 11 Maine
N. 18 Hofstra

NEW HAMPSHIRE (11–2)
Durham, NH
S. 9 at Northwestern
S. 16 Stony Brook
S. 23 at Dartmouth
S. 30 at Delaware
O. 7 Richmond
O. 14 James Madison
O. 21 at Northeastern
O. 28 Hofstra
N. 4 Massachusetts
N. 11 at Rhode Island
N. 18 at Maine

NORTHEASTERN (2–9)
Boston, MA
S. 2 at Virginia Tech
S. 9 at Holy Cross
S. 16 at North Dakota State
S. 23 at James Madison
S. 30 at Richmond
O. 7 Delaware
O. 21 New Hampshire
O. 28 Massachusetts
N. 4 at Maine
N. 11 at Hofstra
N. 18 Rhode Island

RHODE ISLAND (4–7)
Kingston, RI
A. 31 at Connecticut
S. 9 Merrimack
S. 23 Delaware
S. 30 Brown
O. 7 at James Madison
O. 14 Richmond
O. 21 at Massachusetts
O. 28 Maine
N. 4 at Hofstra
N. 11 New Hampshire
N. 18 at Northeastern

RICHMOND (9–4)
Richmond, VA
S. 2 at Duke
S. 16 VMI
S. 23 Bucknell
S. 30 Northeastern
O. 7 at New Hampshire
O. 14 at Rhode Island
O. 21 Delaware
O. 28 James Madison
N. 4 at Villanova
N. 11 Towson
N. 18 at William & Mary

TOWSON (6–5)
Towson, MD
S. 2 Morgan State
S. 9 at Elon
S. 16 Liberty
S. 23 at Hofstra
O. 7 Maine
O. 14 Massachusetts
O. 21 at Villanova
O. 28 at Delaware
N. 4 William & Mary
N. 11 at Richmond
N. 18 James Madison

VILLANOVA (4–7)
Philadelphia, PA
S. 2 at UCF
S. 9 Lehigh
S. 16 Massachusetts
S. 23 at Penn
O. 7 at Hofstra
O. 14 at Maine
O. 21 Towson
O. 28 at William & Mary
N. 4 Richmond
N. 11 James Madison
N. 18 at Delaware

WILLIAM & MARY (5–6)
Williamsburg, VA
S. 2 at Maryland
S. 16 Maine
S. 23 VMI
S. 30 Hofstra
O. 7 at Massachusetts
O. 14 at Liberty
O. 21 at James Madison
O. 28 Villanova
N. 4 at Towson
N. 11 at Delaware
N. 18 Richmond

BIG SKY

EASTERN WASH. (7–5)
Cheney, WA
A. 31 at Oregon State
S. 9 at West Virginia
S. 16 Central Washington
S. 23 at Montana State
S. 30 Sacramento State
O. 7 Montana
O. 14 at Northern Colorado
O. 21 at Portland State
O. 28 Northern Arizona
N. 4 at Weber State
N. 11 Idaho State

IDAHO STATE (5–6)
Pocatello, ID
S. 2 at UNLV
S. 9 Fort Lewis
S. 16 at Idaho
S. 23 Northern Arizona
O. 7 at Northern Colorado
O. 14 at Portland State
O. 21 Montana State
O. 28 at Montana
N. 4 Sacramento State
N. 11 at Eastern Washington
N. 18 Weber State

MONTANA (8–4)
Missoula, MT
S. 2 at Iowa
S. 9 South Dakota State
S. 23 Sacramento State
S. 30 at Portland State
O. 7 at Eastern Washington
O. 14 Northern Arizona
O. 21 at Weber State
O. 28 Idaho State
N. 4 Cal Poly
N. 11 at Northern Colorado
N. 18 Montana State

MONTANA STATE (7–4)
Bozeman, MT
S. 2 at Colorado
S. 9 UC Davis
S. 16 Humboldt State
S. 23 Eastern Washington
S. 30 at Northern Arizona
O. 7 Portland State
O. 14 at Sacramento State
O. 21 at Idaho State
O. 28 Weber State
N. 4 Northern Colorado
N. 18 at Montana

NORTHERN ARIZONA (3–8)
Flagstaff, AZ
A. 31 at Arizona State
S. 9 at Utah
S. 16 Dixie College
S. 23 at Idaho State
S. 30 Montana State
O. 14 at Montana
O. 21 Sacramento State
O. 28 at Eastern Washington
N. 04 Portland State
N. 11 Weber State
N. 18 at Northern Colorado

PORTLAND STATE (6–5)
Portland, OR
S. 2 at New Mexico
S. 9 Northern Colorado
S. 16 at California
S. 23 at Weber State
S. 30 Montana
O. 7 at Montana State
O. 14 Idaho State
O. 21 Eastern Washington
O. 28 at Oregon
N. 4 at Northern Arizona
N. 11 at Sacramento State

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2006 I-AA COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

SACRAMENTO STATE (2–9)
Sacramento, CA
A. 31 at Boise State
S. 16 Cal Poly
S. 23 at Montana
S. 30 at Eastern Wash
O. 7 Weber State
O. 14 Montana State
O. 21 at Northern Arizona
O. 28 Northern Colorado
N. 4 at Idaho State
N. 11 Portland State
N. 18 at UC Davis

WEBER STATE (6–5)
Ogden, UT
S. 2 at Colorado State
S. 9 Cal Poly
S. 16 Southern Utah
S. 23 Portland State
S. 29 Northern Colorado
O. 7 at Sacramento State
O. 21 Montana
O. 28 at Montana State
N. 4 Eastern Washington
N. 11 at Northern Arizona
N. 18 at Idaho State

BIG SOUTH

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN (7–4)
Charleston, SC
S. 2 at Presbyterian
S. 9 at The Citadel
S. 16 Wingate
S. 30 North Greenville
O. 7 at Savannah State
O. 14 Edward Waters
O. 21 VMI
O. 28 Georgetown
N. 4 Gardner-Webb
N. 11 at Liberty
N. 18 at Coastal Carolina

COASTAL CAROLINA (9–2)
Conway, SC
S. 2 Elon
S. 9 at Wofford
S. 16 at Georgia Southern
S. 23 South Carolina State
S. 30 at Winston-Salem State
O. 7 Furman
O. 14 at VMI
O. 28 Liberty
N. 4 Savannah State
N. 11 at Gardner-Webb
N. 18 Charleston Southern

GARDNER-WEBB (5–6)
Boiling Springs, NC
S. 2 at Jacksonville
S. 9 Tennessee Tech
S. 16 at Tennessee-Martin
S. 23 Appalachian State
S. 30 at SE Louisiana
O. 14 Glenville State
O. 21 at Liberty
O. 28 VMI
N. 4 at Charleston Southern
N. 11 Coastal Carolina
N. 18 Wofford

LIBERTY (1–10)
Lynchburg, VA
A. 31 St. Paul's
S. 9 Glenville State
S. 16 at Towson
S. 23 at Savannah State
S. 30 Wake Forest
O. 7 William & Mary
O. 21 Gardner-Webb
O. 28 at Coastal Carolina
N. 4 Western Carolina
N. 11 Charleston Southern
N. 18 at VMI

VMI (3–8)
Lexington, VA
S. 2 Davidson
S. 9 at Norfolk State
S. 16 at Richmond
S. 23 at William & Mary
S. 30 James Madison
O. 7 at Army
O. 14 Coastal Carolina
O. 21 at Charleston Southern
O. 28 at Gardner-Webb
N. 11 at The Citadel
N. 18 Liberty

GATEWAY

ILLINOIS STATE (7–4)
Normal, IL
S. 2 at Kansas State
S. 9 Central Arkansas
S. 16 Eastern Illinois
S. 23 at Murray State
O. 7 at Western Kentucky
O. 14 Southern Illinois
O. 21 at Western Illinois
O. 28 Youngstown State
N. 4 Missouri State
N. 11 at Indiana State
N. 18 at Northern Iowa

INDIANA STATE (0–11)
Terre Haute, IN
S. 2 at Purdue
S. 9 at Eastern Illinois
S. 16 Murray State
S. 23 at Northern Illinois
S. 30 at Southern Illinois
O. 7 at Youngstown State
O. 14 Northern Iowa
O. 21 Missouri State
O. 28 at Western Kentucky
N. 4 at Western Illinois
N. 11 Illinois State

NORTHERN IOWA (11–4)
Cedar Falls, IA
A. 31 at Drake
S. 16 South Dakota State
S. 30 at Iowa State
O. 7 Missouri State
O. 14 at Indiana State
O. 21 at Youngstown State
O. 28 Western Illinois
N. 4 Western Kentucky
N. 11 at Southern Illinois
N. 18 Illinois State

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (9–4)
Carbondale, IL
A. 31 Lock Haven
S. 16 at Indiana
S. 23 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
S. 30 Indiana State
O. 7 Western Illinois
O. 14 at Illinois State
O. 21 Western Kentucky
O. 28 at Missouri State
N. 4 at Youngstown State
N. 11 Northern Iowa
N. 18 Southern Utah

MISSOURI STATE (4–6)
Springfield, MO
S. 2 at Oklahoma State
S. 9 Southwest Baptist
S. 16 at Central Arkansas
S. 23 Sam Houston State
S. 30 Youngstown State
O. 7 at Northern Iowa
O. 14 Western Kentucky
O. 21 at Indiana State
O. 28 Southern Illinois
N. 4 at Illinois State
N. 11 Western Illinois

WESTERN ILLINOIS (5–6)
Macomb, IL
A. 31 Morehead State
S. 9 at Wisconsin
S. 16 Kentucky Wesleyan
S. 23 at Northern Colorado
S. 30 at Western Kentucky
O. 7 at Southern Illinois
O. 14 Youngstown State
O. 21 Illinois State
O. 28 at Northern Iowa
N. 4 Indiana State
N. 11 at Missouri State

WESTERN KENTUCKY (6–5)
Bowling Green, KY
S. 2 at Georgia
S. 9 at Eastern Kentucky
S. 16 Chattanooga
S. 30 Western Illinois
O. 7 Illinois State
O. 14 at Missouri State
O. 21 at Southern Illinois
O. 28 Indiana State
N. 4 at Northern Iowa
N. 11 Youngstown State
N. 18 Austin Peay

YOUNGSTOWN STATE (8–3)
Youngstown, OH
A. 31 Slippery Rock
S. 9 Maine
S. 16 at Penn State
S. 23 UC Davis
S. 30 at Missouri State
O. 7 Indiana State
O. 14 at Western Illinois
O. 21 Northern Iowa
O. 28 at Illinois State
N. 4 Southern Illinois
N. 11 at Western Kentucky

GREAT WEST

CAL POLY (9–4)
San Luis Obispo, CA
S. 2 Fort Lewis
S. 9 at Weber State
S. 16 at Sacramento State
S. 23 at San Jose State
S. 30 Southern Utah
O. 7 UC Davis
O. 21 South Dakota State
O. 28 at San Diego State
N. 4 at Montana
N. 11 at North Dakota State
N. 18 Savannah State

NORTH DAKOTA STATE (7–4)
Fargo, ND
A. 31 Concordia-St. Paul
S. 16 Northeastern
S. 23 at Ball State
S. 30 at Stephen F. Austin
O. 7 at Georgia Southern
O. 14 Miss. Valley State
O. 21 at Minnesota
O. 28 at Southern Utah
N. 4 at UC Davis
N. 11 Cal Poly
N. 18 South Dakota State

NO. COLORADO (4–7)
Greeley, CO
S. 2 UC Davis
S. 9 at Portland State
S. 16 at Texas State
S. 23 Western Illinois
S. 30 at Weber State
O. 7 Idaho State
O. 14 Eastern Washington
O. 28 at Sacramento State
N. 4 at Montana State
N. 11 Montana
N. 18 Northern Arizona

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (6–5)
Brookings, SD
South Dakota State
S. 2 Wisconsin-La Crosse
S. 9 at Montana
S. 16 at Northern Iowa
S. 23 at Nicholls State
S. 30 at McNeese State
O. 7 Central Arkansas
O. 21 at Cal Poly
O. 28 UC Davis
N. 4 William Penn
N. 11 at Southern Utah
N. 18 at North Dakota State

SOUTHERN UTAH (1–9)
Cedar City, UT
S. 2 Montana Tech
S. 9 Western State
S. 16 at Weber State
S. 23 Texas State
S. 30 at Cal Poly
O. 7 at McNeese State
O. 21 at UC Davis
O. 28 North Dakota State
N. 11 South Dakota State
N. 18 at Southern Illinois

UC DAVIS (6–5)
Davis, CA
S. 2 at Northern Colorado
S. 9 at TCU
S. 23 at Youngstown State
O. 7 at Cal Poly
O. 14 Central Arkansas
O. 21 Southern Utah
O. 28 at South Dakota State
N. 4 North Dakota State
N. 18 Sacramento State
N. 25 San Diego

IVY

BROWN (9–1)
Providence, RI
S. 16 Georgetown
S. 23 Harvard
S. 30 at Rhode Island
O. 7 at Holy Cross
O. 14 at Princeton
O. 21 Cornell
O. 28 at Penn
N. 4 Yale
N. 11 at Dartmouth
N. 18 Columbia

COLUMBIA (2–8)
New York, NY
S. 16 Fordham
S. 23 Georgetown
S. 30 Princeton
O. 7 Iona
O. 14 at Penn
O. 21 Dartmouth
O. 28 at Yale
N. 4 at Harvard
N. 11 Cornell
N. 18 at Brown

CORNELL (6–4)
Ithaca, NY
S. 16 at Bucknell
S. 23 Yale
S. 30 Albany
O. 7 at Harvard
O. 14 Colgate
O. 21 at Brown
O. 28 Princeton
N. 4 Dartmouth
N. 11 at Columbia
N. 18 Penn

DARTMOUTH (2–8)
Hanover, NH
S. 16 at Colgate
S. 23 New Hampshire
S. 30 at Penn
O. 7 Yale
O. 14 Holy Cross
O. 21 at Columbia
O. 28 Harvard
N. 4 at Cornell
N. 11 Brown
N. 18 at Princeton

HARVARD (7–3)
Cambridge, MA
S. 16 Holy Cross
S. 23 at Brown
S. 30 at Lehigh
O. 7 Cornell
O. 14 Lafayette
O. 21 at Princeton
O. 28 at Dartmouth
N. 4 Columbia
N. 11 at Penn
N. 18 Yale

PENN (5–5)
Philadelphia, PA
S. 16 at Lafayette
S. 23 Villanova
S. 30 Dartmouth
O. 07 at Bucknell
O. 14 Columbia
O. 21 at Yale
O. 28 Brown
N. 4 at Princeton
N. 11 Harvard
N. 18 at Cornell

PRINCETON (7–3)
Princeton, NJ
S. 16 at Lehigh
S. 23 Lafayette
S. 30 at Columbia
O. 7 at Colgate
O. 14 Brown
O. 21 Harvard
O. 28 at Cornell
N. 4 Penn
N. 11 at Yale
N. 18 Dartmouth

YALE (4–6)
New Haven, CT
S. 16 San Diego
S. 23 at Cornell
S. 30 at Lafayette
O. 7 at Dartmouth
O. 14 Lehigh
O. 21 Penn
O. 28 Columbia
N. 4 at Brown
N. 11 Princeton
N. 18 at Harvard

MAAC

DUQUESNE (7–3)
Pittsburgh, PA
S. 2 at Bucknell
S. 9 at Robert Morris
S. 16 St. Francis (PA)
S. 23 Sacred Heart
S. 30 West Liberty State
O. 7 at Fordham
O. 14 at St. Peter's
O. 21 Marist
O. 28 Iona
N. 4 at La Salle

IONA (3–7)
New Rochelle, NY
S. 2 Montclair State
S. 9 at Wagner
S. 16 at Sacred Heart
S. 23 Western Connecticut
S. 30 Stonehill
O. 7 at Columbia
O. 21 La Salle
O. 28 at Duquesne
N. 4 St. Peter's
N. 11 at Marist

LA SALLE (4–7)
Philadelphia, PA
S. 2 Wagner
S. 9 at Monmouth
S. 23 at St. Francis (PA)
O. 21 at Iona
N. 4 Duquesne
N. 9 at St. Peter's

MARIST (7–4)
Poughkeepsie, NY
S. 2 at Central Conn. State
S. 9 Sacred Heart
S. 16 Wagner
S. 23 Holy Cross
S. 30 Bucknell
O. 21 at Duquesne
O. 28 St. Peter's
N. 4 at Georgetown
N. 11 Iona

ST. PETER'S (1–9)
Jersey City, NJ
S. 2 at St. Francis (PA)
S. 9 at Western Connecticut
S. 16 at Monmouth
S. 23 at Wagner
S. 30 Central Conn. State
O. 14 Duquesne
O. 19 Salisbury
O. 28 at Marist
N. 4 at Iona
N. 9 La Salle

MEAC

BETHUNE-COOKMAN (7–4)
Daytona Beach, FL
S. 2 #Southern
S. 9 Savannah State
S. 16 at South Carolina State
S. 23 Norfolk State
S. 30 at Morgan State
O. 7 Delaware State
O. 14 Winston-Salem State
O. 28 North Carolina A&T
N. 4 at Hampton
N. 11 Howard
N. 18 %Florida A&M
#Jacksonville, FL
%Orlando, FL

DELAWARE STATE (7–4)
Dover, DE
S. 2 #Florida A&M
S. 9 St. Francis (PA)
S. 16 at Northwestern State
S. 30 Hampton
O. 7 at Bethune-Cookman
O. 14 North Carolina A&T
O. 21 at Morgan State
O. 28 South Carolina State
N. 4 Concord
N. 11 at Norfolk State
N. 18 at Howard
#Detroit, MI

FLORIDA A&M (6–5)
Tallahassee, FL
S. 2 #Delaware State
S. 9 at Miami
S. 16 at Howard
S. 23 Winston-Salem State
S. 30 %Tennessee State
O. 14 South Carolina State
O. 21 at Norfolk State
O. 28 Morgan State
N. 4 at North Carolina A&T
N. 11 Hampton
N. 18 &Bethune-Cookman
#Detroit, MI
%Atlanta, GA
&Orlando, FL

HAMPTON (11–1)
Hampton, VA
S. 2 #Grambling
S. 9 Howard
S. 16 North Carolina A&T
S. 23 %Morgan State
S. 30 at Delaware State
O. 7 Central State
O. 14 Norfolk State
O. 21 at South Carolina State
O. 28 Winston-Salem State
N. 4 Bethune-Cookman
N. 11 at Florida A&M
#Birmingham, AL
%East Rutherford, NJ

HOWARD (4–7)
Washington, DC
S. 9 at Hampton
S. 16 Florida A&M
S. 23 at Rutgers
S. 30 Savannah State
O. 7 at Winston-Salem State
O. 14 Morgan State
O. 21 at North Carolina A&T
O. 28 Norfolk State
N. 4 at South Carolina State
N. 11 at Bethune-Cookman
N. 18 Delaware State

MORGAN STATE (2–9)
Baltimore, MD
S. 2 Towson
S. 16 Bowie State
S. 23 #Hampton
S. 30 Bethune-Cookman
O. 7 North Carolina A&T
O. 14 at Howard
O. 21 Delaware State
O. 28 at Florida A&M
N. 4 at Norfolk State
N. 11 South Carolina State
#East Rutherford, NJ

NORTH CAROLINA A&T (3–8)
Greensboro, NC
S. 2 Winston-Salem State
S. 16 at Hampton
S. 30 at Norfolk State
O. 7 Morgan State
O. 14 at Delaware State
O. 21 Howard
O. 28 at Bethune-Cookman
N. 4 Florida A&M
N. 11 Elon
N. 18 South Carolina State

NORFOLK STATE (4–7)
Norfolk, VA
S. 2 Virginia State
S. 9 VMI
S. 23 at Bethune-Cookman
O. 30 North Carolina A&T
O. 7 at South Carolina State
O. 14 at Hampton
O. 21 Florida A&M
O. 28 at Howard
N. 4 Morgan State
N. 11 Delaware State
N. 18 Winston-Salem State

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (9–2)
Orangeburg, SC
S. 2 at Wofford
S. 9 at Winston-Salem State
S. 16 Bethune-Cookman
S. 23 at Coastal Carolina
O. 7 Norfolk State
O. 14 at Florida A&M
O. 21 Hampton
O. 28 at Delaware State
N. 4 Howard
N. 11 at Morgan State
N. 18 at North Carolina A&T

NORTHEAST

ALBANY (5–6)
Albany, NY
S. 2 at Lehigh
S. 9 Fordham
S. 16 at Delaware
S. 23 Central Conn. State
S. 30 at Cornell
O. 7 at Stony Brook
O. 14 at Sacred Heart
O. 21 St. Francis (PA)
O. 28 Wagner
N. 4 at Robert Morris
N. 11 Monmouth

CENTRAL CONN. STATE (7–4)
New Britain, CT
S. 2 Marist
S. 9 at Georgia Southern
S. 15 at Southern Connecticut
S. 23 at Albany
S. 30 at St. Peter's
O. 7 St. Francis (PA)
O. 14 at Robert Morris
O. 21 Wagner
O. 28 at Monmouth
N. 4 at Sacred Heart
N. 11 Stony Brook

MONMOUTH (6–4)
W. Long Branch, NJ
S. 2 at Fordham
S. 9 LaSalle
S. 16 St. Peter's
S. 23 at Colgate
S. 30 Stony Brook
O. 7 Sacred Heart
O. 14 at Wagner
O. 21 at Robert Morris
O. 28 Central Conn. State
N. 4 St. Francis (PA)
N. 11 at Albany

ROBERT MORRIS (2–8)
Moon Township, PA
S. 2 at Dayton
S. 9 Duquesne
S. 16 at Butler
S. 23 Rowan
S. 30 at St. Francis (PA)
O. 7 at Wagner
O. 14 Central Conn. State
O. 21 Monmouth
O. 28 at Stony Brook
N. 4 Albany
N. 11 at Sacred Heart

SACRED HEART (4–6)
Fairfield, CT
S. 2 Lafayette
S. 9 at Marist
S. 16 Iona
S. 23 at Duquesne
S. 30 Wagner
O. 7 at Monmouth
O. 14 Albany
O. 21 at Stony Brook
O. 28 at St. Francis (NY)
N. 4 Central Conn. State
N. 11 Robert Morris

ST. FRANCIS (PA) (3–8)
Loretto, PA
S. 2 St. Peter's
S. 9 at Delaware State
S. 16 at Duquesne
S. 23 La Salle
S. 30 Robert Morris
O. 7 at Central Conn. State
O. 14 Stony Brook
O. 21 at Albany
O. 28 Sacred Heart
N. 4 at Monmouth
N. 11 Wagner

STONY BROOK (6–5)
Stony Brook, NY
A. 31 Hofstra
S. 9 at Georgetown
S. 16 at New Hampshire
S. 23 at Massachusetts
S. 30 at Monmouth
O. 7 Albany
O. 14 at St. Francis (PA)
O. 21 Sacred Heart
O. 28 Robert Morris
N. 4 at Wagner
N. 11 at Central Conn. State

WAGNER (6–5)
Staten Island, NY
S. 2 at La Salle
S. 9 Iona
S. 16 at Marist
S. 23 St. Peter's
S. 30 at Sacred Heart
O. 7 Robert Morris
O. 14 Monmouth
O. 21 at Central Conn. State
O. 28 at Albany
N. 4 Stony Brook
N. 11 at St. Francis (PA)

OHIO VALLEY

EASTERN ILLINOIS (9–3)
Charleston, IL
S. 2 at Illinois
S. 9 Indiana State
S. 16 at Illinois State
S. 23 at Samford
S. 30 at Hawaii
O. 7 SE Missouri State
O. 14 at Eastern Kentucky
O. 21 Murray State
O. 28 at Tennessee-Martin
N. 4 Tennessee State
N. 11 at Tennessee Tech
N. 18 Jacksonville State

EASTERN KENTUCKY (7–4)
Richmond, KY
S. 2 at Cincinnati
S. 9 Western Kentucky
S. 16 at Western Carolina
S. 23 at Tennessee Tech
S. 30 Jacksonville State
O. 7 at Samford
O. 14 Eastern Illinois
O. 21 at SE Missouri State
N. 4 Murray State
N. 11 at Tennessee-Martin
N. 18 Tennessee State

JACKSONVILLE STATE (6–5)
Jacksonville, AL
S. 2 at Furman
S. 16 SE Missouri State
S. 23 at Tennessee-Martin
S. 30 at Eastern Kentucky
O. 5 Murray State
O. 14 at Mississippi State
O. 21 Tennessee State
O. 26 at Tennessee Tech
N. 4 at Chattanooga
N. 11 Samford
N. 18 at Eastern Illinois

MURRAY STATE (2–9)
Murray, KY
S. 2 at Missouri
S. 9 at Tennessee State
S. 16 at Indiana State
S. 23 Illinois State
S. 30 Tennessee Tech
O. 5 at Jacksonville State
O. 14 Samford
O. 21 at Eastern Illinois
O. 28 SE Missouri State
N. 4 at Eastern Kentucky
N. 18 Tennessee-Martin

SAMFORD (5–6)
Birmingham, AL
A. 31 Miles College
S. 9 at Georgia Tech
S. 14 Austin Peay
S. 23 Eastern Illinois
S. 30 at SE Missouri State
O. 7 Eastern Kentucky
O. 14 at Murray State
O. 21 Tennessee-Martin
O. 28 at Tennessee State
N. 4 Tennessee Tech
N. 11 at Jacksonville State

SE MISSOURI STATE (2–9)
Cape Girardeau, MO
S. 2 at Austin Peay
S. 9 Missouri-Rolla
S. 23 at Jacksonville State
S. 30 Samford
O. 7 at Eastern Illinois
O. 14 at Arkansas
O. 21 Eastern Kentucky
O. 28 at Murray State
N. 4 Tennessee-Martin
N. 11 at Tennessee State
N. 18 Tennessee Tech

TENNESSEE-MARTIN (6–5)
Martin, TN
S. 2 at Ohio
S. 7 Urbana
S. 16 Gardner-Webb
S. 23 Jacksonville State
S. 30 at Austin Peay
O. 5 at Tennessee Tech
O. 21 at Samford
O. 28 Eastern Illinois
N. 4 at SE Missouri State
N. 11 Eastern Kentucky
N. 18 at Murray State

TENNESSEE STATE (2–9)
Nashville, TN
S. 2 Alabama A&M
S. 9 Murray State
S. 16 #Jackson State
S. 23 at Vanderbilt
S. 30 %Florida A&M
O. 14 Tennessee Tech
O. 21 at Jacksonville State
O. 28 Samford
N. 4 at Eastern Illinois
N. 11 SE Missouri State
N. 18 at Eastern Kentucky
#Memphis, TN
%Atlanta, GA

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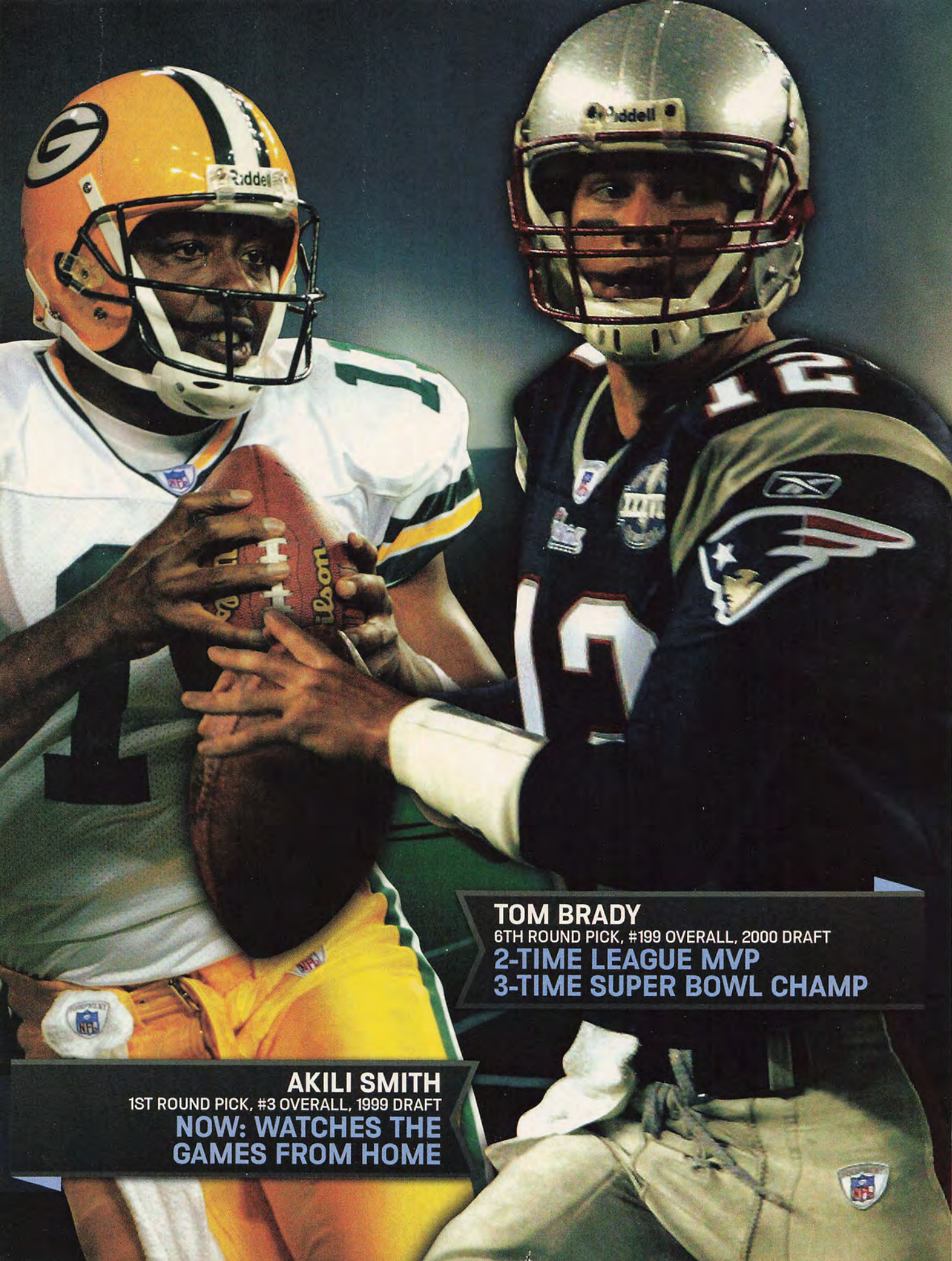

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2006 I-AA COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

TENNESSEE TECH (4–7)
Cookeville, TN
A. 31 Chattanooga
S. 9 at Gardner-Webb
S. 14 at Middle Tennessee
S. 23 Eastern Kentucky
S. 30 at Murray State
O. 5 Tennessee-Martin
O. 14 at Tennessee State
O. 26 Jacksonville State
N. 4 at Samford
N. 11 Eastern Illinois
N. 18 at SE Missouri State

PATRIOT

BUCKNELL (1–10)
Lewisburg, PA
S. 2 Duquesne
S. 9 Lafayette
S. 16 Cornell
S. 23 at Richmond
S. 30 at Marist
O. 7 Penn
O. 14 at Georgetown
O. 21 at Lehigh
O. 28 Fordham
N. 4 at Holy Cross
N. 18 Colgate

COLGATE (8–4)
Hamilton, NY
S. 2 at Massachusetts
S. 16 Dartmouth
S. 23 Monmouth
S. 30 Georgetown
O. 7 Princeton
O. 14 at Cornell
O. 21 at Fordham
O. 28 Lafayette
N. 4 at Lehigh
N. 11 Holy Cross
N. 18 at Bucknell

FORDHAM (2–9)
Bronx, NY
S. 2 Monmouth
S. 9 at Albany
S. 16 at Columbia
S. 30 at Holy Cross
O. 7 Duquesne
O. 14 Marist
O. 21 Colgate
O. 28 at Bucknell
N. 4 Lafayette
N. 11 at Lehigh
N. 18 Georgetown

GEORGETOWN (4–7)
Washington, DC
S. 2 Holy Cross
S. 9 Stony Brook
S. 16 at Brown
S. 23 at Columbia
S. 30 at Colgate
O. 7 Lehigh
O. 14 Bucknell
O. 28 at Charleston Southern
N. 4 Marist
N. 11 at Lafayette
N. 18 at Fordham

HOLY CROSS (6–5)
Worchester, MA
S. 2 at Georgetown
S. 9 Northeastern
S. 16 at Harvard
S. 23 at Marist
S. 30 Fordham
O. 7 Brown
O. 14 at Dartmouth
O. 21 at Lafayette
O. 28 Lehigh
N. 4 Bucknell
N. 11 at Colgate

LAFAYETTE (8–4)
Easton, PA
S. 2 at Sacred Heart
S. 9 at Bucknell
S. 16 Penn
S. 23 at Princeton
S. 30 Yale
O. 14 at Harvard
O. 21 Holy Cross
O. 28 at Colgate
N. 4 at Fordham
N. 11 Georgetown
N. 18 Lehigh

LEHIGH (8–3)
Bethlehem, PA
S. 2 Albany
S. 9 at Villanova
S. 16 Princeton
S. 30 Harvard
O. 7 at Georgetown
O. 14 at Yale
O. 21 Bucknell
O. 28 at Holy Cross
N. 4 Colgate
N. 11 Fordham
N. 18 at Lafayette

PIONEER

AUSTIN PEAY (2–9)
Clarksville, TN
S. 2 SE Missouri State
S. 9 at Cumberland
S. 14 at Samford
S. 23 at Dayton
S. 30 Tennessee-Martin
O. 14 at Missouri-Rolla
O. 21 Univ. of the Cumberlands
O. 28 Charleston
N. 4 North Greenville
N. 11 at Morehead State
N. 18 at Western Kentucky

BUTLER (0–11)
Indianapolis, IN
S. 2 at Albion
S. 9 Hanover
S. 16 Robert Morris
S. 23 Jacksonville
S. 30 Dayton
O. 7 at San Diego
O. 14 Drake
O. 21 Valparaiso
O. 28 at Missouri-Rolla
N. 4 Morehead State
N. 11 at Davidson

DAVIDSON (4–6)
Davidson, NC
S. 2 at VMI
S. 9 Wingate
S. 16 at Lenoir-Rhyne
S. 30 San Diego
O. 7 Jacksonville
O. 14 at Morehead State
O. 21 Dayton
O. 28 at Valparaiso
N. 4 at Drake
N. 11 Butler

DAYTON (9–1)
Dayton, OH
S. 2 Robert Morris
S. 9 at Wittenberg
S. 23 Austin Peay
S. 30 at Butler
O. 7 Morehead State
O. 14 at Jacksonville
O. 21 at Davidson
O. 28 Drake
N. 4 Valparaiso
N. 11 at San Diego

DRAKE (6–4)
Des Moines, IA
A. 31 Northern Iowa
S. 9 Upper Iowa
S. 16 Wisconsin-Platteville
S. 23 at Valparaiso
S. 30 Morehead State
O. 7 Waldorf
O. 14 at Butler
O. 21 San Diego
O. 28 at Dayton
N. 4 Davidson
N. 11 at Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE (4–4)
Jacksonville, FL
S. 2 Gardner-Webb
S. 9 Edward Waters
S. 16 at SE Louisiana
S. 23 at Butler
S. 30 at Valparaiso
O. 7 at Davidson
O. 14 Dayton
O. 21 at Morehead State
O. 28 at North Greenville
N. 4 San Diego
N. 11 Drake

MOREHEAD STATE (8–4)
Morehead, KY
A. 31 at Western Illinois
S. 9 at Newberry
S. 16 Valparaiso
S. 23 Missouri-Rolla
S. 30 at Drake
O. 7 at Dayton
O. 14 Davidson
O. 21 Jacksonville
O. 28 at San Diego
N. 4 at Butler
N. 11 Austin Peay

SAN DIEGO (11–1)
San Diego, CA
S. 1 Azusa Pacific
S. 9 Dixie State
S. 16 at Yale
S. 30 at Davidson
O. 7 Butler
O. 14 Valparaiso
O. 21 at Drake
O. 28 Morehead State
N. 4 at Jacksonville
N. 11 Dayton
N. 25 at UC Davis

VALPARAISO (3–8)
Valparaiso, IN
S. 2 at Wisconsin Lutheran
S. 9 Trinity International
S. 16 at Morehead State
S. 23 Drake
S. 30 Jacksonville
O. 7 at St. Joseph's (IN)
O. 14 at San Diego
O. 21 at Butler
O. 28 Davidson
N. 4 at Dayton
N. 11 Aurora

SOUTHERN

APPALACHIAN STATE (12–3)
Boone, NC
S. 2 at NC State
S. 9 James Madison
S. 16 Mars Hill
S. 23 at Gardner-Webb
S. 30 Elon
O. 7 at Chattanooga
O. 14 Wofford
O. 21 at Georgia Southern
O. 28 Furman
N. 4 The Citadel
N. 11 at Western Carolina

CHATTANOOGA (6–5)
Chattanooga, TN
A. 31 at Tennessee Tech
S. 9 at Memphis
S. 16 at Western Kentucky
S. 23 Georgia Southern
S. 30 at The Citadel
O. 7 Appalachian State
O. 14 at Western Carolina
O. 21 at Furman
O. 28 Elon
N. 4 Jacksonville State
N. 11 at Wofford

ELON (3–8)
Elon, NC
S. 2 at Coastal Carolina
S. 9 Towson
S. 16 Presbyterian
S. 30 at Appalachian State
O. 7 Western Carolina
O. 14 at Georgia Southern
O. 21 Wofford
O. 28 at Chattanooga
N. 4 Furman
N. 11 at North Carolina A&T
N. 18 The Citadel

FURMAN (11–3)
Greenville, SC
S. 2 Jacksonville State
S. 9 West Georgia
S. 16 at North Carolina
S. 23 Western Carolina
S. 30 at Wofford
O. 7 at Coastal Carolina
O. 14 The Citadel
O. 21 Chattanooga
O. 28 at Appalachian State
N. 4 at Elon
N. 11 Georgia Southern

GEORGIA SOUTHERN (8–4)
Statesboro, GA
S. 9 Central Conn. State
S. 16 Coastal Carolina
S. 23 at Chattanooga
S. 30 at Western Carolina
O. 7 North Dakota State
O. 14 Elon
O. 21 Appalachian State
O. 28 at The Citadel
N. 4 Wofford
N. 11 at Furman
N. 18 Central Arkansas

THE CITADEL (4–7)
Charleston, SC
S. 2 at Texas A&M
S. 9 Charleston Southern
S. 23 at Pittsburgh
S. 30 Chattanooga
O. 7 at Wofford
O. 14 at Furman
O. 21 Western Carolina
O. 28 Georgia Southern
N. 4 at Appalachian State
N. 11 VMI
N. 18 at Elon

WESTERN CAROLINA (5–4)
Cullowhee, NC
A. 31 Chowan
S. 16 Eastern Kentucky
S. 23 at Furman
S. 30 Georgia Southern
O. 7 at Elon
O. 14 Chattanooga
O. 21 at The Citadel
O. 28 at Wofford
N. 4 at Liberty
N. 11 Appalachian State
N. 18 at Florida

WOFFORD (6–5)
Spartansburg, SC
S. 2 South Carolina State
S. 9 Coastal Carolina
S. 16 at South Carolina
S. 30 Furman
O. 7 The Citadel
O. 14 at Appalachian State
O. 21 at Elon
O. 28 Western Carolina
N. 4 at Georgia Southern
N. 11 Chattanooga
N. 18 at Gardner-Webb

SOUTHLAND

MCNEESE STATE (5–4)
Lake Charles, LA
S. 2 at South Florida
S. 9 West Virginia Tech
S. 16 at UL Lafayette
S. 23 at Toledo
S. 30 South Dakota State
O. 7 Southern Utah
O. 14 Texas State
O. 21 at Stephen F. Austin
O. 28 at Sam Houston State
N. 4 Southeastern
N. 11 at Northwestern State
N. 18 Nicholls State

NICHOLLS STATE (6–4)
Thibodaux, LA
A. 31 Southern Arkansas
S. 9 at Nebraska
S. 16 at Louisiana Tech
S. 23 South Dakota State
O. 7 SE Louisiana
O. 14 at Sam Houston State
O. 21 Northwestern State
O. 28 Assumption College
N. 4 at Texas State
N. 11 Stephen F. Austin
N. 18 at McNeese State

NORTHWESTERN STATE (5–5)
Natchitoches, LA
S. 2 at Kansas
S. 9 at Baylor
S. 16 Delaware State
S. 30 Arkansas-Monticello
O. 7 Sam Houston State
O. 14 at SE Louisiana
O. 21 at Nicholls State
O. 28 Texas State
N. 4 at Ole Miss
N. 11 McNeese State
N. 18 at Stephen F. Austin

SAM HOUSTON STATE (3–7)
Huntsville, TX
S. 9 Arkansas-Monticello
S. 16 at SMU
S. 23 at Missouri State
S. 30 at Texas
O. 7 at Northwestern State
O. 14 Nicholls State
O. 21 Central Arkansas
O. 28 McNeese State
N. 4 at Stephen F. Austin
N. 11 at SE Louisiana
N. 18 Texas State

SE LOUISIANA (4–6)
Hammond, LA
A. 31 at New Mexico State
S. 9 at Southern Miss
S. 16 Jacksonville
S. 23 at Texas Tech
S. 30 Gardner-Webb
O. 7 at Nicholls State
O. 14 Northwestern State
O. 21 at Texas State
O. 28 Stephen F. Austin
N. 4 at McNeese State
N. 11 Sam Houston State

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN (5–6)
Nacogdoches, TX
A. 31 at Tulsa
S. 9 Delta State
S. 16 at Arizona
S. 23 Central Arkansas
S. 30 North Dakota State
O. 7 at Texas State
O. 21 McNeese State
O. 28 at SE Louisiana
N. 4 Sam Houston State
N. 11 at Nicholls State
N. 18 Northwestern State

TEXAS STATE (11–3)
San Marcos, TX
S. 2 Tarleton State
S. 9 at Kentucky
S. 16 Northern Colorado
S. 23 at Southern Utah
O. 7 Stephen F. Austin
O. 14 at McNeese State
O. 21 SE Louisiana
O. 28 at Northwestern State
N. 4 Nicholls State
N. 11 Texas Southern
N. 18 at Sam Houston State

SWAC

ALABAMA A&M (9–3)
Huntsville, AL
S. 2 at Tennessee State
S. 9 Grambling
S. 16 at Miss. Valley State
S. 23 at Texas Southern
O. 7 Southern
O. 14 Stillman
O. 21 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
O. 28 #Alabama State
N. 4 at Jackson State
N. 11 Alcorn State
N. 18 Prairie View A&M
#Birmingham, AL

ALABAMA STATE (6–5)
Montgomery, AL
S. 2 at Troy
S. 9 Texas Southern
S. 16 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
S. 23 at Alcorn State
S. 30 at Southern
O. 7 #Jackson State
O. 14 at Prairie View A&M
O. 28 %Alabama A&M
N. 4 Grambling
N. 11 Miss. Valley State
N. 23 Tuskegee
#Mobile, AL
%Birmingham, AL

ALCORN STATE (6–5)
Lorman, MS
S. 2 at UL Monroe
S. 9 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
S. 16 at Langston
S. 23 Alabama State
O. 7 at Prairie View A&M
O. 14 Texas Southern
O. 21 Southern
N. 4 at Miss. Valley State
N. 11 at Alabama A&M
N. 18 at Jackson State
D. 2 at Grambling

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF (3–8)
Pine Bluff, AR
S. 2 #Miss. Valley State
S. 9 Alcorn State
S. 16 at Alabama State
S. 23 Southern Illinois
S. 30 %Tuskegee
O. 14 $Grambling
O. 21 Alabama A&M
O. 28 Jackson State
N. 4 !Prairie View
N. 11 at Southern
N. 18 Texas Southern
#Chicago, IL
%St. Louis, MO
$Little Rock, AR
!Houston, TX

GRAMBLING (11–1)
Grambling, LA
S. 2 #Hampton
S. 9 at Alabama A&M
S. 16 at Houston
S. 30 %Prairie View A&M
O. 7 at Miss. Valley State
O. 14 $Arkansas-Pine Bluff
O. 21 Jackson State
O. 28 at Texas Southern
N. 4 Alabama State
N. 25 &Southern
D. 2 Alcorn State
#Birmingham, AL
%Dallas, TX
$Little Rock, AR
&New Orleans, LA

JACKSON STATE (2–9)
Jackson, MS
S. 2 Paul Quinn
S. 16 #Tennessee State
S. 23 Miss. Valley State
S. 30 at Texas Southern
O. 7 %Alabama State
O. 14 Southern
O. 21 at Grambling
O. 28 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N. 4 Alabama A&M
N. 11 Prairie View A&M
N. 18 Alcorn State
#Memphis, TN
%Mobile, AL

MISS. VALLEY STATE (6–5)
Itta Bena, MS
S. 2 #Arkansas-Pine Bluff
S. 9 at Southern University
S. 16 Alabama A&M
S. 23 at Jackson State
S. 30 Concordia College
O. 7 Grambling
O. 14 at North Dakota State
O. 21 at Texas Southern
O. 28 Prairie View A&M
N. 4 Alcorn State
N. 11 at Alabama State
#Chicago, IL

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M (5–6)
Prairie View, TX
S. 2 #Texas Southern
S. 9 Edward Waters
S. 16 #Southern
S. 23 Concordia
S. 30 %Grambling
O. 7 Alcorn State
O. 14 Alabama State
O. 28 at Miss. Valley State
N. 4 #Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N. 11 at Jackson State
N. 18 at Alabama A&M
#Houston, TX
%Dallas, TX

SOUTHERN (4–5)
Baton Rouge, LA
S. 2 Bethune-Cookman
S. 9 Miss. Valley State
S. 16 %Prairie View A&M
S. 23 North Carolina Central
S. 30 Alabama State
O. 7 at Alabama A&M
O. 14 at Jackson State
O. 21 at Alcorn State
N. 4 Texas Southern
N. 11 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N. 25 #Grambling
%Houston
#New Orleans, LA

TEXAS SOUTHERN (1–10)
Houston, TX
S. 2 #Prairie View A&M
S. 9 at Alabama State
S. 16 at New Mexico State
S. 23 Alabama A&M
S. 30 Jackson State
O. 14 at Alcorn State
O. 21 Miss. Valley State
O. 28 Grambling
N. 4 at Southern
N. 11 at Texas State
N. 18 at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
#Reliant Stadium: Houston

I-AA INDEPENDENTS

SAVANNAH STATE (0–11)
Savannah, GA
S. 2 at Benedict
S. 9 at Bethune-Cookman
S. 23 Liberty
S. 30 at Howard
O. 7 Charleston Southern
O. 14 #Morehouse
O. 21 Winston-Salem State
O. 28 at Johnson C. Smith
N. 4 at Coastal Carolina
N. 11 Edward Waters
N.18 at Cal Poly
#Augusta, GA

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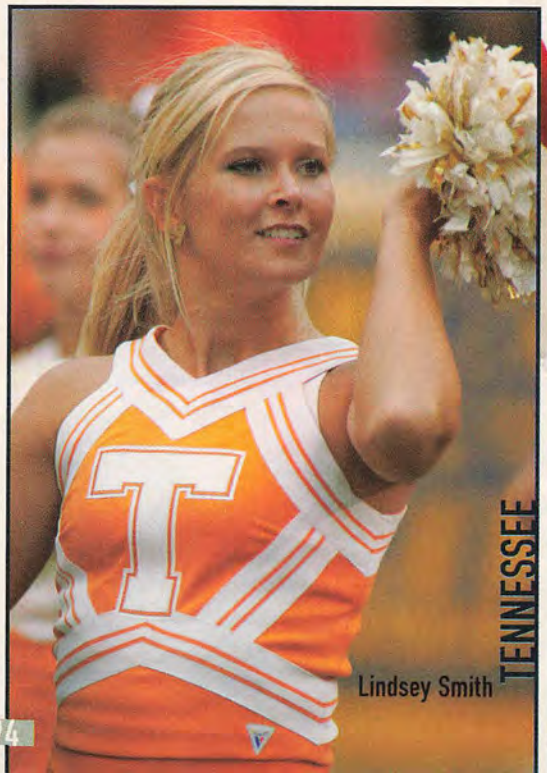
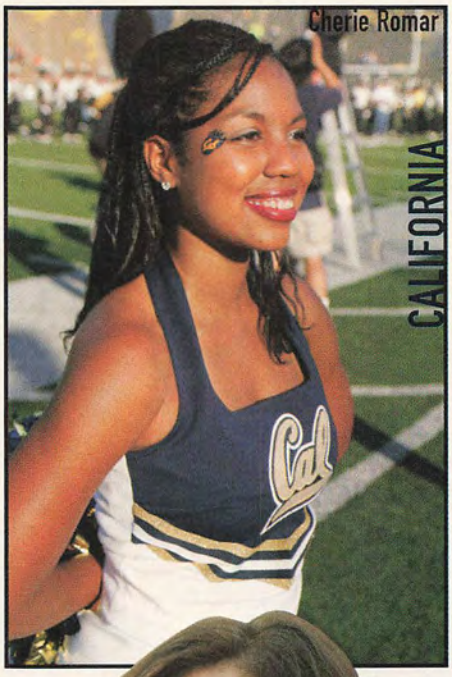


Lindsey Smith
TENNESSEE

Amy Blake
NEBRASKA

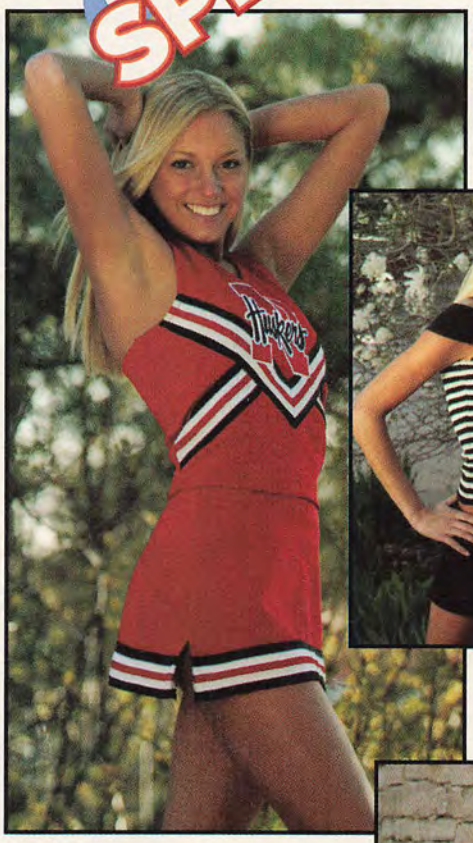
USC: Peter Brouillet
Tennessee: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports
Nebraska: Tim Umphery



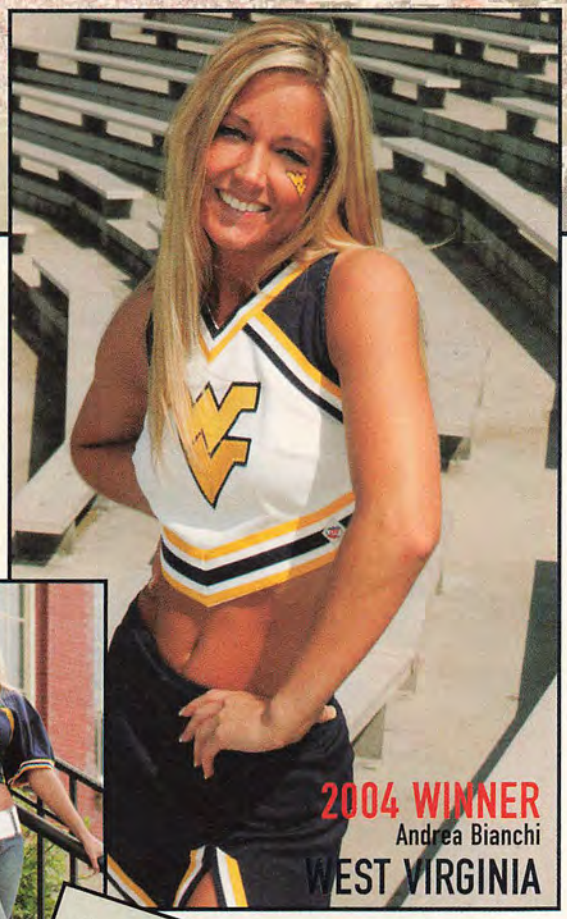
Minnesota: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Washington: Ric Fogel; California: John Medina

ATHLON SPORTS SIDELINE SPIRIT CONTEST

Photos by Ric Fogel



2003 WINNER
Chelsea Kimmerling
NEBRASKA



2004 WINNER
Andrea Bianchi
WEST VIRGINIA

2005 WINNER
Kelly DuPree
KENTUCKY

Dear Athlon

Thank you so much and I am so excited to represent WVU in Athlon's 2005 College Football Preview!!!! This was an amazing experience for me. The WVU fans were awesome and incredibly supportive throughout both rounds of the competition. Everyone in the community was so eager to help me win your competition. About 8 different newspapers throughout the state of West Virginia published articles about voting everyday and I had several different news stations interview me about the competition. I couldn't even believe how many Mountaineer fans from across the entire US had found out about this competition and were voting for me everyday. I am so proud and very excited to represent our school in your magazine.

Thanks again for such an amazing experience and I look forward to hearing from you soon!!!!!!!

Cheerfully,
Andrea Bianchi

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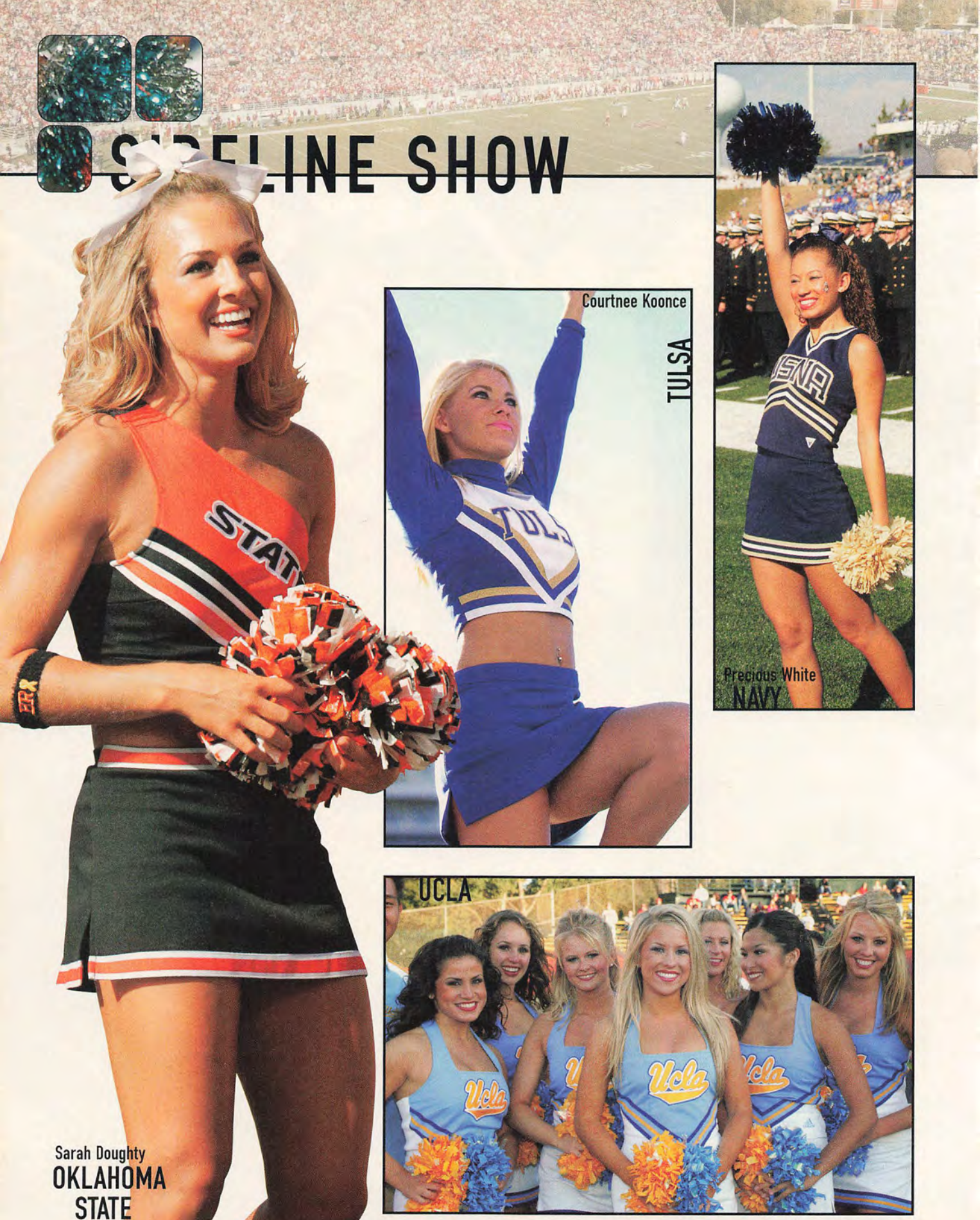
SIDELINE SHOW



Oklahoma State: Chris Covatta; California: John Medina; Tulsa: Paul Levy; Navy: Al Kooistra

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TAILGATING

For more tailgating tips, visit www.theultimatetailgater.com

Game Day doesn't start with the kickoff, and it doesn't end with the final horn. The parking lot is the place to be, and here's your one-stop guide to all things tailgating.

GRILLS

There's just all kinds of stuff out there on the Web about grills. Type in "buy a grill" on Google and you'll get thousands of listings. Below are the company sites for the larger grill manufacturers. This is a good place to start, since these sites will have the most details on the specs and styles of grills available.

Now, if what you want is something custom-made and really big, check out www.bbqpits.com. This company from Houston can set you up right.

And remember, you can also check your local hardware stores, Wal-Mart or Lowe's. In fact, www.lowes.com has a feature that allows you to compare grills so you can find the one just right for you.

GRILL SITES

www.freedomgrill.com
www.webergrills.com
www.ducane.com
www.hollandgrill.com
www.thebrinkmancorp.com
www.campchef.com

GRILL ACCESSORIES

You'll need tools for cooking on and cleaning off your grill, and a fine selection of those items can be found at the sites listed below.

Want even your food to be loyal to the team? At www.thegrillstoreandmore.com, you'll find university-specific branding irons for your steaks — an awfully nice touch.

GRILL ACCESSORY SITES

www.cooking.com
www.campingworld.com
www.grillingaccessories.com
www.lowes.com

TENTS

You can find canopy tents at sporting goods stores, your local Home Depot or Lowe's, or Wal-Mart. You might like shopping for tents at these stores because they usually have one or two samples set up, allowing you to get a sense of just how many people you could fit under them.

However, if armchair shopping is your preference, you can check out the websites below to do a little research and shopping. You'll also find more of a selection online than in a local store.

And if you want to add a historical element to your tailgate, the people at www.tentsmiths.com will sell you replicas of Viking tents, World War II officer's tents, teepees, and all sorts of other nifty things.

These items are perfect to help you complete your theme tailgate. You'll be the only one in the parking lot with one, and the envy of all.

TENT SITES

www.elitedeals.com
www.kdkanopy.com
www.championcanopies.com
www.ezupdirect.com

There are a couple of things every tailgater should have before getting started.

One is a membership in the American Tailgaters Association. The ATA is a national organization that promotes tailgating, negotiates discounts on merchandise for members, and allows tailgaters to meet in forums, discuss the best tailgating places, talk about their favorite teams or sports, and post pictures. Basically, it's the one-stop tailgaters' "community." *The Ultimate Tailgater's Handbook* is the official tailgating handbook of the ATA. They have a few membership options, including the basic membership, which is free. You can't beat that.

The other is a Screenserver. This is a new variety of screensaver, one that receives updated images, news, and information all day long. This new entertainment product displays a combination of magazine-quality photography, TV-quality video, and broadcast-quality audio, along with breaking news, statistics, and archives typically found on websites. And you can have it right on your desktop. It's pretty cool. Actually, it's really cool, and it's free.

Log on to theultimatetailgater.com to see if your favorite team has a Screenserver yet and download it. Be sure to check back often, because the folks who create them are adding new teams all the time.

Larry Smith

THE ULTIMATE *Tailgater*

Tailgating tips provided by Stephen Linn, author of The Ultimate Tailgater's Handbook and the new book *The Ultimate Tailgater's Travel Guide: More Than 20 Great Road Trips* which are the ultimate how-to resources for the tailgater who wants to do it all, have it all, and host the best party in the parking lot. Visit *www.theultimatetailgater.com* for more tailgating ideas, recipes, and how-to videos.

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All tailgating information supplied by www.theultimatetailgater.com

PARTY DECORATIONS

Basic party decorations can be found almost anywhere. Visit your local grocery store, Wal-Mart, Target, or a local party supply shop. If you prefer to do your shopping online, the sites below are good sources for basic decorations, and each one also has sections that can help you get set up for any theme tailgates.

PARTY ACCESSORY SITES

www.4funparties.com
www.party411.com
www.partysupplyhut.com
www.partysuppliesandfavors.com
www.bulkpartysupplies.com

FOOD

When you want to add some authentic ethnicity to your buffet, you can order food, spices, and condiments from the nice folks at www.ethnicgrocer.com.

THEMES

Luau Theme

www.hilohattie.com
www.islandmadness.com

Fiesta Theme

www.mariachi4U.com
www.partypop.com/categories/mariachi_bands.html

Team-specific piñatas can be found at www.pinatas.com.

Oktoberfest Theme

www.partyoptions.net/octoberfest/octoberfest_decorations.htm
www.germanfoods.org/consumer/oktoberfestexperience.cfm

Halloween Theme

There are some great pumpkin-carving patterns along with instructions on how to make patterns of your own at www.jack-o-lantern.com.

Of course, almost all cities have stores that sell costumes, props, and other Halloween gear, but if you want to order online and have these shipped to you, a good place to start is www.halloweenmagazine.com. Here you'll find costumes and music, and you can even catch up on what's new with Elvira (remember her?).

Shelly Castellano

THE BAR

Your best bet for barware and accessories is going to be plastic (they don't easily break) and cheap (they will get lost). A number of stores from chains like Crate and Barrel and Pier 1 to local grocery stores and Wal-Mart will have plenty to choose from.

For team-specific drinkware and bar items, try the sites listed in the General Tailgating listing below.

For the ultimate tailgater who wants to take a full bar along to the game, you may want to visit this website: www. ajmadison.com/cgi-bin/ajmadison/3BCSSS.html. It's really expensive, but really cool. (You can also find it at other retailers.)

FIREBALL BRATS

ASIAN BROCCOLLI SLAW & BRATS

GENERAL TAILGATING FUN

There are a number of tailgating supply sites on the Internet. The ones below have some of the widest selections, and you'll be able to find everything from tables and coolers to blenders and banners.

TEAM GEAR SITES

www.footballfanatics.com
www.collegegear.com
www.teamstore.com
www.MVP.com

TAILGATING GEAR SITES

www.tailgatetown.com
www.tailgatingsupplies.com
www.americantailgater.com
www.tailgatepartyshop.com
www.mytailgate.com
www.tailgated.com
www.footballfanatics.com

Johnsonville Brats

TAILGATING RECIPES

FIREBALL BRATS

A recipe from the kitchen at Johnsonville®

»Prep: 10 min. »Cook: 25 min.
» 1/2 cup diced onion
» 1/3 cup diced sweet red pepper
» 1/3 cup diced green pepper
» 1-1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
» 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
» 1/2 teaspoon chili oil
» 1 cup barbecue sauce
» 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
» 1/4 teaspoon pepper
» 1 package (19.76 ounces) Johnsonville® Original Fresh Bratwurst
» 5 hoagie or bratwurst buns, split
» 2-3 jalapeno peppers, sliced

In a skillet, saute the onion, red and green pepper and garlic in oil for 3-5 minutes or until tender. Add the barbecue sauce, cayenne and black pepper; heat through. Set aside and keep warm. Grill brats according to package directions. Spoon ? cup sauce onto each bun. Top with a brat and jalapeno slices. **5 servings**

Tip: Try substituting a wrap, pita bread or flat bread for the hoagie bun.

ASIAN BROCCOLLI SLAW & BRATS

A recipe from the kitchen at Johnsonville®

»Prep: 15 min. »Cook: 25 min.
»1 package (16 ounces) broccoli coleslaw
»1/4 cup thinly sliced green onion
»1/4 cup olive oil
»1/4 cup rice vinegar
»1/4 cup cider vinegar
»2 tablespoons sugar
»2 tablespoons soy sauce
»2 tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted
»1/2 teaspoon minced peeled fresh gingerroot
»1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
»1 package (19.76 ounces) Johnsonville® Original Fresh Bratwurst
»5 hoagie or bratwurst buns, split

In a bowl, combine broccoli coleslaw and green onions. In another bowl, whisk together the oil, rice vinegar, cider vinegar, sugar, soy sauce, sesame seeds, ginger and garlic. Pour over broccoli coleslaw mixture; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until serving.
Cook brats according to package directions; place on buns. Using a slotted spoon, top with coleslaw.
5 servings

Tips: » Broccoli slaw tastes even better when prepared the day before and refrigerated.
» Serve extra coleslaw as a side salad.
» Fresh gingerroot can be peeled with a spoon.

Don't ever call me a Weenie!

Johnsonville®
Brats

JOE'S JAMBALAYA

» 1½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
» Salt
» Ground black pepper
» ¼ cup vegetable oil
» 1½ pounds sausage cut in ¼-inch pieces
» 4 cups chopped onion
» 2 cups chopped celery
» 2 cups chopped green bell pepper
» 1 tablespoon minced garlic
» 5 cups chicken stock or water flavored with chicken bouillon
» 2 tablespoons seasoned salt
» 2 tablespoons Kitchen Bouquet (browning agent)
» 4 cups long grain rice
» 2 cups chopped green onions

Season the chicken with the salt and pepper. Brown the chicken in the hot oil in a large Dutch oven or stockpot over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and cook 5 to 7 minutes. Remove the chicken and the sausage from the pan. Add the onions, celery, green peppers, and garlic to the pan. Cook, stirring, for 7 to 10 minutes, or until the vegetables begin to soften. Stir in the chicken stock, the cooked chicken and sausage, the seasoned salt, and Kitchen Bouquet. Bring the contents to a boil. Add the rice and return to a boil. Cover the pot and reduce the heat to simmer. Cook for 10 minutes. Remove the cover and quickly turn the rice from top to bottom. Replace the cover and cook for 15 to 20 minutes more, or until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is tender. Stir in the green onions.

If using an electric stove, reduce cooking time by 3 to 4 minutes. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

BARBECUED RIBS

» 10 pounds pork or beef ribs
» Salt and Pepper
» Garlic powder
» Creole seasoning
» 1 cup Worcestershire sauce
» 1 (12-ounce) can 7-Up or beer
» Favorite barbecue sauce
» Wood chips of your choice (hickory or pecan are good options)

On the day before cooking, place the ribs in a deep aluminum tray. Season to taste with salt, pepper, garlic powder, and Creole seasoning. Add the Worcestershire sauce to the tray. Add enough 7-Up or beer to almost cover the ribs. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

On game day light the fire and allow it to die down a bit. Move the coals to one end of the grill, and then place the ribs on the opposite end. Shut the lid of the grill and allow the ribs to cook 4 to 6 hours. During cooking, turn the ribs several times and baste with the barbecue sauce. This will seal in the flavor. Wood chips can be added to the fire anytime during cooking. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

STEAK AND MUSHROOM SANDWICH

» 1 pound beef round tip steak or sirloin tip steak, thinly sliced
» Salt and pepper
» ½ plus ½ teaspoon dried thyme
» 1 tablespoon olive or vegetable oil
» 2 cloves garlic, minced
» ½ pound sliced white mushrooms
» ¼ cup dry red wine
» ½ cup prepared beef gravy
» ½ loaf French bread, split and toasted

Sprinkle the meat with the salt and pepper to taste and ½ teaspoon thyme. Sauté the meat (using half the oil) until browned and medium rare, about 30 to 45 seconds per side. Cook the meat in batches and do not overcrowd the pan — this will ensure that the meat fries rather than steams.

In a large nonstick skillet heat the remaining oil over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring until tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Pour in the wine and bring to a boil for 1 minute. Season the mushrooms with salt and pepper to taste and the remaining ½ teaspoon thyme. Add the prepared gravy and stir until the mixture is heated.

Arrange the meat on top of the toasted French bread and top it with the mushroom sauce. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

GRILLED PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS WITH BLUE CHEESE

» 8 portobello mushrooms, about 4 inches in diameter
» ½ cup vegetable oil
» Chopped fresh herbs of your choice (suggestions: thyme, basil, oregano, or chives)
» ⅓ to ½ cup crumbled blue cheese

Remove the stems from the mushrooms and, if desired, scoop out the gills with a small spoon to make more room for the cheese. Clean the mushrooms and lightly brush both sides with the oil.

Place the mushrooms cap side down on the grill. Cook over medium-high heat 2 to 3 minutes. Turn the caps over, sprinkle with the herbs and cheese to taste, and cook 2 to 3 minutes more, or until the mushrooms are tender and the cheese has partially melted. Serve warm. Makes 8 servings.

HOT BUTTERED RUM

» 4 ounces dark rum
» 1 tablespoon butter plus 1 teaspoon for topping
» 1 teaspoon light brown sugar
» Nutmeg
» Powdered cloves
» Boiling water
» Cinnamon sticks

In a large mug combine the rum, 1 tablespoon butter, brown sugar, and a pinch each of the nutmeg and cloves. Add the boiling water to fill the mug, and stir the contents until the sugar has dissolved. Pour into two serving mugs.

Garnish with a cinnamon stick and top with the remaining 1 teaspoon butter. Makes 2 servings.

POTION PUNCH

» 3 (12-ounce) containers frozen apple juice
» 9 cups water
» ½ cup lime juice
» ½ gallon softened lime sherbet
» 9 cups chilled club soda

Prior to leaving for the stadium, combine the apple juice, water, and lime juice. Cover and chill. Just before serving, spoon the lime sherbet into a large punch bowl. Slowly pour the apple juice mixture and club soda over the top and stir gently.

To create a potion-like fog on top of the punch, add a small amount of dry ice directly to the bowl. Most grocery stores sell dry ice. Makes 24 servings.

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

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Barber, Tiki (R) Giants/UVA	$189
Beban, Gary (R) UCLA/Heisman	$ 79
Bednarik, Chuck (R) Eagles HOF	$ 59
Bellino, Joe (R) Navy/Heisman	$ 59
Berry, Raymond (C) Colts HOF	$ 69
Biletnikoff, F. (R) Raid/FSU	$ 79
Blanchard, Doc (R) Army/Heis	$ 69
Bowden, Bobby (R) Fla. St.	$ 99
Bradshaw, Terry (R) Steelers HOF	$229
Brooks, Aaron NO.UVA (R) T.S.P.	$ 49
Brown, Chris (R)Titans/Col	$ 79
Brown, Jim (R) Clev/SY	$179
Brown, Tim (R) Raid/ND	$ 99
Bruce, Issac (R) Rams/MSU	$ 69
Brunell, Mark (R) Huskies/Jags	$ 89
Bullock, Keith (R) Titans/Syr	$ 79
Buoniconti, Nick (R) MIA HOF	$ 69
Burress, Plaxico (R) Giants	$ 89
Bush, Reggie (R) USC/Saints	$199
Butkus, Dick (S) Bears/Illinois	$159
Campbell, E (R) Oil/TX/Heis	$ 99
Campbell, Jason (R) Aub/Skins	$ 79
Cannon, Billy (R) LSU/Heisman	$ 69
Cappelletti, J (R) Rams/PSU/Heis	$ 59
Carr, David (R) Texans/Fresno St	$129
Carter, Chris (R) Vikings	$ 79
Cassady, H. (R) OSU/Heisman	$ 59
Chambers, Chris (R) Miami/Wisc	$ 69
Christensen, Todd (R) Raid/BYU	$ 65
Clark, Dwight (R) SF/Clemson	$ 69
Clayton, Michael (R) Bucs/LSU	$ 69
Couch, Tim (S) (KY)	$ 79
Crouch, Eric (R) Neb/Heis	$ 69
Crow, John David (R) TX A&M/Heis	$ 69
Davis, Glen (R) Army/Heis	$ 99
Davis, Willie (R) Packers HOF	$ 59
Dawson, L. (R) Pur/KC HOF	$ 75
Dayne, Ron (R) Wisc/Heisman	$ 79
Dent, Richard (R) Bears	$ 69
Dickerson, Eric (S) Rams/SMU	$ 89
Ditka, Mike (R) Bears/TB	$ 99
Dorsett, T. (R) Dal/Heis/Pitt	$109
Dyson, Kevin (R) Titans "MCM"	$ 69
Elway, John (R) Denver	$259
Evans, Lee (R) Bills/Wisc	$ 69
Favre, Brett (R) Packers/So.Miss	$199
Flutie, Doug (R) BC/Pats/Heis	$ 99
Foote, Larry (R) Mich/Steelers	$ 69
Foreman, Chuck (R) Vik/U Miami	$ 69
Foster, DeShaun (R) Carolina	$ 69
Fouts, Dan (R) Chargers HOF	$109
Frazier, Tommie (R) Nebraska	$ 69
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Galloway, Joey (R) OSU/Bucs	$ 69
Gannon, Rich (R) Raid	$ 99
Gardner, Rod (R) Clem/Skins	$ 59
Gates, Antonio (R) Chargers	$ 89
George, E (R) OSU/Heis/Dal	$109
Gonzalez, Tony (R) Chiefs	$ 99
Green, Ahman (R) GB/Neb	$ 89
Green, Trent (R) Chiefs/Ind	$ 89
Griese, Bob HOF (S) T.S.P.	$109
Griffin, Archie (R) OSU Heis	$ 75
Grossman, Rex (R) Bears/Fla	$ 89
Haley, Charles (R) Dallas	$ 59
Ham, Jack (R) Penn St./Pitt	$ 79
Hampton, Dan (R) HOF Bears	$ 59
Hannah, John (R) Pats/TB/HOF	$ 65
Harper, Alvin (R) Vols/Dal	$ 59
Harris, Franco (R) Steelers/PSU	$149
Harris, Tommie (R) Bears/OU	$ 59
Hawk, A.J. (R) Ohio State	$ 89
Henry, Travis (R) Vols/Titans	$ 69
Henson, Drew (R) Dal/Mich	$ 89
Heupel, Josh (R) Oklahoma	$ 69
Holmes, Priest (C) Texas	$119
Horn, Joe (R) Saints	$ 59
Hornung, Paul (S) ND/Heis/GB	$ 75
Howard, Desmond (R) Mich/Heis/GB	$ 69
Huff, Sam (R) HOF/Skins/Giants	$ 79
Jackson, Bo (R) Raiders/Aub	$169
Jenkins, Michael (R) OSU/Falcons	$ 69
Johnson, Chad (R) Bengals	$ 89
Johnson, Key (R) Jets $29 or USC	$ 89
Johnson, Rudi (R) Bengals	$ 79
Johnston, Daryl (R) Dallas	$ 69
Joiner, Charlie (R) SD w/HOF	$ 65
Jones, Deacon (R) HOF/Rams	$ 69
Jones, Ed "Too Tall" (R) A.S.	$ 69
Jones, Julius (R) ND/Dallas	$109
Jones, Kevin (R) Va. Tech	$ 59
Jones, Thom. (R) UVA/Bears	$ 69
Jurgenson, S. (R) Skins/Duke	$129
Kelly, Jim (R) Bills/U.MIA	$119
Kelly, Leroy (R) Clev. HOF	$ 59
Kilmer, Billy (R) Skins/UCLA	$ 59
Klecko, Joe (R) Jets TB	$ 49
Krause, Paul (R) Vik w/HOF	$ 65
Lamonica, D (R) N.D./Raid	$ 69
Langer, Jim (R) Dolphins HOF	$ 59
Lary, Yale (R) TX A&M/Lions	$ 59
Lattner, Johnny (R) ND/Heis	$ 65
Lavelli, Dante (R) Clev/HOF/OSU	$ 59
Lefors, Stefan (R) Louisville	$ 59
Leftwich, Byron (S) Jaguars	$139
Leinart, Matt (R) USC/Cards	$199
Lelie, Ashley (R) Den/HI	$ 69
Levy, Marv (R) Bills HOF	$ 69
Lily, Bob (R) HOF Dallas	$ 59
Little, Larry (R) Miami HOF	$ 59
Lofton, James (R) GB/Bills/HOF	$ 69
Lott, R. (R) Raid/SF/USC	$ 89
Lynch, John (R) Denver	$ 99
Mackey, John (C) Colts HOF	$ 59
Manning, Archie (R) MS/NO	$ 89
Manning, Eli (R) NY/MS	$199
Manning, Peyton (R) Colts/Vols	$259
Marchetti, Gino (R) Colts w/HOF	$ 59
Marino, Dan (R) Mia/Pitt	$259
Maynard, Don (R) Jets TB HOF	$ 59
McAllister, Duece (R) Saints/Ole Miss	$ 79
McGahee, Willis (R) Bills/Canes	$ 89
McGee, Max (R) Packers TB	$ 49
McMichael, Randy (R) Miami/UGA	$ 69
McNabb, Donovan (R) Eagles	$239
Miller, Heath (R) Steelers/UVA	$ 89
Mitchell, Bobby (R) Skins HOF	$ 69
Montana, Joe (R) SF/N.Dame	$199
Moon, Warren (R) Oilers HOF	$ 99
Moore, Lenny (R) Colts/HOF	$ 59
Morency, Venand (R) OK St/TX	$ 59
Morrall, E. Colts/Mia (R) C.S.A.	$ 49
Morris, Joe (R) Giants	$ 49
Nebraska 3-Sig Heisman (R)	$ 99
Newman, Terence (R) Dallas	$ 49
Norton, Ken Jr. (R) Dallas/SF	$ 59
Novacek, Jay (R) Dallas	$ 69
Nugent, Mike (R) Ohio St	$ 59
Oklahoma (R) 3-Sig Hesiman	$ 99
Orton, Kyle (R) Bears/Purdue	$ 79
Otto, Jim (R) Miami/Raid HOF	$ 69
Owens, Steve (R) Okla/Heis	$ 59
Parrish, Roscoe (R) Canes/Bills	$ 59
Parseghian, Ara (R) Notre Dame	$ 89
Pennington, Ch. (R) Jets/Mar.	$149
Perry, Chris (R) Mich/Cinn	$ 79
Pihos, Phil (R) Eagles TB w/HOF	$ 59
Plummer, Jake (R) Broncos	$109
Plunkett, J. (R) Raid/Stan/Heis	$ 99
Portis, Clinton (R) Skins/Canes	$ 99
Ramsey, Patrick (R) Skins/Tulane	$ 69
Reed, Andre (R) Bills	$ 59
Renfro, Mel (R) Dallas HOF	$ 59
Rice, Jerry (R) Raid/SF	$169
Rivers, Philip (R) NC State/S.D.	$ 79
Rodgers, Johnny (R) Neb/Heis	$ 59
Rogers, Geo (R) SC/Heisman	$ 59
Rolle, Antrel (R) U. Miami	$ 59
Rozier, Mike (R) Nebr./Heis.	$ 59
Salaam, R. (R) Col/Heisman	$ 59
Sanders, Barry (R) Det/OSU	$199
Sayers, G. (R) Bears/Kansas	$ 89
Selmon, LeRoy (R) OU/Bucs HOF	$ 69
Shockley, D.J. (R) U Georgia	$ 79
Simms, Chris (R) Texas/Bucs	$ 79
Simms, Phil (R) NY Giants	$119
Simpson, OJ (R) Bills TB/USC	$ 99
Sims, Billy (R) Okla/Lions/Heis	$ 59
Singletary, M.(R) Bears/Baylor	$ 89
Spears, Marcus (R) LSU	$ 59
Spurrier, Steve (R) Fla/HEIS	$ 99
Stabler, Ken (R) Raid/ALA	$ 99
Stallworth, Donte (R) U.T./Saints	$ 69
Stallworth, John (R) Pitt HOF	$ 89
Starr, Bart (R) Ala./GB HOF	$219
Staubach, Roger (R) Dallas	$189
Steel. Curtain (R) (4 Sigs) GTSM	$169
Stenerud, Jan (R) Chiefs HOF	$ 59
Stephenson, D. (R) Miami HOF	$ 69
Sullivan, Pat (R) Auburn/Heis	$ 69
Tarkenton, F. (R) GA/Minn.	$129
Taylor, Charley (R) Skins HOF	$ 59
Taylor, Fred (R) Jags/FL	$ 79
Taylor, Lawrence (R) NY/UNC	$159
Theismann, J. (R) Skins/ND	$ 99
Thomas, Th. (R) Bills/OS St.	$ 89
Tittle, YA (R) LSU/Giants	$ 79
Toretta, Gino (R) U of Miami/Heis	$ 59
Upshaw, Gene (R) Raiders HOF	$ 69
Urlacher, Brian (R) Bears	$159
Vick, Michael (R) Atl/Vtech	$229
Vilma, Johathan (R) Jets/Canes	$ 69
Walker, Her. (S) GA/Heis.	$ 99
Ware, Andre (R) Heis/Houston	$ 59
Warrick, Peter (R) FSU/Cinn	$ 79
White, Charles (R) USC/Heis	$ 59
White, Danny (R) Dallas	$ 65
White, Jason (R) OU/Heis	$ 75
White, Randy (R) Dal/Terps	$ 65
Williams, Carnell (R) Bucs/Aub	$119
Williams, Roy (R) OU/Dal	$ 89
Witten, Jason (R) U.T./Dallas	$ 79
Woodson, Charles (R) Mich/Heis	$ 99
Wuerffel, Danny (R) Gators/Heis	$ 69
Young, Steve (R) S.F. w/HOF	$169
Youngblood, Jack (R) Rams HOF	$ 69

(R) Replica Mini (S) Auth. Mini
(C) Chrome (SB) Super Bowl

FOOTBALLS

Aikman, Troy OFC $299 or NFL Gold	$ 239
Allen, Marcus OFC ASL	$ 199
Barber, Tiki OFC S.S.	$ 269
Biletnikoff, Fred OFC HOF/MVP	$ 199
Bowden, Bobby Fla St Logo	$ 129
Bradshaw, Terry OFC	$ 299
Brown, Chris OFC $179 or Gold	$ 129
Brown, Jim OFC $279 or Gold	$ 199
Butkus, Dick OFC w/ HOF	$ 249
Campbell, Earl OFC w/ HOF	$ 199
Cappelletti, John Gold w/HEIS	$ 69
Dawson, Len OFC $169 or Logo	$ 119
Dillon, Corey OFC $249 or Gold	$ 189
Dorsett, Tony OFC $199 or Gold	$ 169
Elway, John OFC M.M.	$ 429
Favre, Brett OFC B.F. Hologram	$ 299
Harris, Franco OFC S.S.	$ 249
Horning, Paul OFC $169 or Gold	$ 119
Jackson, Bo Auburn/Gold	$ 159
Johnson, Rudi Bengals Logo	$ 129
Joiner, Charlie NFL Gold HOF	$ 79
Jones, Ed "Too Tall" NFL Gold	$ 79
Jones, Julius OFC	$ 249
Kelly, Jim OFC $199 or Logo	$ 159
Kosar, Bernie OFC $179 Browns	$ 109
Lilly, Bob Dallas Logo w/HOF	$ 79
Manning, Eli OFC S.S.	$ 299
Manning, Peyton OFC M.M.	$ 399
Marino, Dan OFC $399 or "Gold"	$ 299
McNabb, Donovan OFC SS	$ 339
Montana, Joe OFC $299 or Gold	$ 249
Namath, Joe OFC SS/DNA	$ 399
Plummer, Jake OFC w/ "Snake"	$ 239
Rice, Jerry OFC Rice/Holo	$ 259
Rivers, Philip OFC $159 or Logo	$ 119
Roethlisberger, B OFC	$ 399
Rypien, Mark OFC $169 or Skins	$ 109
Sanders, Barry OFC	$ 279
Sayers, Gale OFC $189 or Gold	$ 129
Sims, Billy NFL Gold or Lions	$ 69
Stabler, Ken OFC $199 or Raid Logo	$ 139
Starr, Bart OFC HOF	$ 329
Starr/Hornung/Davis OFC 3-Sig	$ 399
Staubach, Roger OFC S.S.	$ 269
Taylor, Lawrence OFC GTSM	$ 249
Theisman, Joe OFC w/ SB MVP	$ 219
Theismann, J. ND/Skins Logoball	$ 149
Tittle, YA OFC $169 or Gold	$ 139
Vick, Michael OFC	$ 299
Walker, Herschel GA. Logo	$ 129
Williams, Carnell OFC $249 or Logo	$ 199
Williams, Ricky OFC S.S.	$ 229
Woodson, Charles OFC	$ 179
Young, Steve OFC w/HOF	$ 269

HELMETS

'69 Jets Team (27 Sigs) S.S.	$999
Aikman, Troy OFC Dallas/UCLA	$449
Allen, Marcus OFC Raid HOF $399 Rep	$269
Barber, Tiki OFC Giants S.S.	$419
Bradshaw, Terry OFC	$449
Brown, Chris OFC Titans $349 or Rep	$199
Brown, Jim OFC Clev $429 or Rep	$269
Butkus, Dick OFC $399 or Rep	$249
Campbell, Earl OFC $379 or Rep	$259
Cassady/Griffin OSU Rep	$199
Culpepper, D Vikings OFC $299 or Rep	$149
Dawson, Len OFC KC $299 or Rep	$169
Ditka, Mike OFC $379 or Rep	$239
Dorsett, Tony OFC $399 or Rep	$259
Elway, John OFC $549 or Rep	$399
Favre, Brett OFC $449 or Rep	$349
Gates, Antonio Chargers Rep	$199
Gonzalez, Tony Chiefs Rep	$199
Griese, Bob OFC $349 or Rep	$229
Ham, Jack OFC PSU $349 Steelers Rep	$199
Heisman (28 Sigs) OFC S.S.	$1,399
Heisman FS Rep (12 Sigs)	$599
Hornung, Paul (GB/ND) S.S.	$349
Jackson, Bo OFC Aub $389 or Rep	$259
Johnson, Rudi OFC $349 Rep	$199
Jones, Julius Dallas Rep	$239
Kelly, Jim OFC Bills/Mia GTSM	$399
Leinart, Matt OFC USC	$399
Manning, Eli OFC Giants/MS	$449
Manning, Peyton Colts/Vols	$599
Marino, Dan OFC $579 or Rep M.M.	$399
Montana, J. (ND/SF) T.S.P.	$479
Moon, Warren OFC Oilers w/ HOF	$379
Namath, Joe (NY/ALA) OFC	$579
Nebraska OFC 3-Sig Heisman	$349
Pennington, Chad OFC Jets/Marsh	$389
Plunkett, J. OFC Raid/Stanf $379 Rep	$230
Rice, Jerry OFC SF $399 or Rep	$299
Riggins, John OFC Skins w/ HOF	$449
Sanders, Barry OFC $479 or Rep	$399
Sayers, Gale OFC T.B. Bears	$379
Selmon, LeRoy OFC OU $299 or Rep	$199
Stabler, K OFC Raid/Ala $349 or Rep	$199
Starr, Bart OFC T.S.P. (GB/Ala)	$479
Staubach, Roger OFC $429 or Rep	$329
Steel Curtain OFC $399 or Rep	$279
Taylor, L. OFC Giants TB/HOF	$419
Theismann, J. OFC Skins/ND	$379
Thomas, T (Bills/OK.St.) OFC	$349
Tittle, Y.A. OFC TB A.S. HOF	$349
Vick, Michael OFC $459 or Rep	$299
Walker, Her OFC UGA $349 or Rep	$199
Williams, Cadillac OFC Bucs/Aub $399 Rep	$259
Williams, Roy Dallas Rep	$199
Woodson, Charles OFC Mich w/ Heis	$389
Young, Steve OFC SF TB w/HOF	$429

JERSEYS

'69 Jets Team (27 Sigs) S.S.	$ 899
Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem Lakers	$349
Aikman, Troy Dal/UCLA	$ 349
Allen, Marcus OFC USC/Raid	$ 279
Banks, Ernie Cubs GTSM	$ 349
Banks/Dawson Cubs "MVP" GTSM	$ 399
Barber, Tiki NY Giants S.S.	$ 399
Biletnikoff, Fred Raiders HOF	$ 119
Bird, Larry OFC PSA/DNA	$ 449
Bradshaw, Terry Steelers	$ 349
Branch, Deion Pats TB w/ SBMVP	$ 229
Brown, Jim OFC T.B. HOF	$ 349
Bruce, Isaac Rams TB w/ INSC	$ 199
Burress, Plaxico NY Giants	$ 199
Bush, Reggie USC/Saints	$ 329
Butkus, Dick Bears/Illinois M.M.	$ 299
Campbell, Earl TX/Oilers HOF	$ 279
Carlton, Steve Phillies HOF	$ 269
Carter, Vince UNC/Nets	$ 349
Crede, Joe White Sox GTSM	$ 229
Dayne, Ron Wisc w/ Heisman	$ 199
Dorsett, Tony Dallas/U Pitt	$ 249
Elway, J. Denver TB/Stan MM	$ 479
Erving, Julius "Dr. J" 76'ers	$ 399
Favre, Brett Packers B.F.H.	$ 449
Frazier, Walt Knicks OFC HOF	$ 299
Gates, Antonio Chargers TB	$ 199
George, Eddie Ohio St Heis	$ 249
Gibson, Bob Cardinals HOF	$ 249
Green, Trent Chiefs	$ 249
Greene, Joe Steelers	$ 199
Griese, Bob OFC T.S.P./HOF	$ 279
Griffin, Archie Ohio St. Global	$ 199
Hawk, A.J. Ohio State	$ 199
Heisman Trophy 13 Sigs	$ 499
Horning, Paul GB/N.Dame	$ 229
Howard, Desmond Mich Heis	$ 199
James, Edgerrin OFC Colts	$ 349
Jenkins, Fergie Cubs w/ HOF	$ 179
Jeter, Derek NYY OFC S.S.	$ 629
Johnson, Chad Bengals	$ 269
Johnson, Magic Lakers/Mich St.	$ 399
Johnson, Rudi Bengals/Auburn	$ 199
Jordan, M. OFC U.D.A.	$1,599
Leinart, Matt USC/Cards	$ 329
Lott, Ronnie SF/USC	$ 229
Manning, Eli Giants/MS	$ 399
Manning, Peyton OFC S.S.	$ 579
Marino, Dan Dolphins/Pitt Adidas	$ 549
McAllister, Duece Saints/MS	$ 229
McCovey, Willie Giants w/ HOF	$ 349
McNabb, Donovan OFC Eagles	$ 499
Miller, Heath Steelers	$ 199
Montana, Joe San Fran TB	$ 399
Montana/Clark "The Catch"	$ 449
Moon, Warren Oilers HOF	$ 229
Murphy, Dale Braves w/'82,'83 MVP	$ 199
Musial, Stan OFC Cards	$ 349
Namath, Joe Jets/ALA S.S.	$ 499
Newsome, Ozzie Browns/AL	$ 199
Palmer, Carson Bengals	$ 399
Plunkett, Jim Raiders	$ 249
Portis, Clinton Skins/Canes	$ 249
Posednick, Scott White Sox	$ 249
Rice, Jerry OFC S.F./Raiders	$ 349
Ripken, Cal Jr. Orioles	$ 499
Roethlisberger, Ben Steelers	$ 429
Rose, Pete Reds M.M.	$ 329
Sanders, Barry Lions/OK St	$ 399
Sayers, Gale Bears HOF	$ 299
Schmidt, Mike Phillies w/ HOF	$ 299
Stabler, Ken Raiders/Ala	$ 249
Starr, Bart T.S.P./Packers	$ 449
Staubach, Roger Dallas HOF	$ 349
Steel Curtain (4-sigs)	$ 349
Taylor, Lawrence Giants/HOF	$ 299
Theisman, Joe OFC Skins	$ 279
Urlacher, Brian Bears	$ 289
Vick, Michael Falcons	$ 429
Walker, Herschel UGA/Heis/Dal	$ 249
Whitten, Jason Dallas	$199
Woodson, Chas Raid/Mich	$ 249
Young, Steve SF/BYU/HOF	$ 329

BATS

Banks, Ernie (R) Eng. HOF	$ 239
Bench, Johnny (R) Eng.	$ 229
Boggs, Wade Anthony (R) ENG	$ 229
Cepado, Orlando (R) ENG	$ 119
Chavez, Eric (R) ENG	$ 89
Crosby, Bobby (R) ENG	$ 89
Damon, Johnny (R) LS Elite	$ 249
Dawson, Andre (R) ENG	$ 99
Drew, JD (R) ENG T.S.P.	$ 129
Gibson, Bob (R) ENG	$ 119
Griffey, Ken Jr. (LS) C-271 UDA	$ 329
Jackson, Reggie (R) ENG	$ 279
Jeter, Derek (LS) C271 S.S.	$ 549
Jones, Andruw (R) ENG ASI	$ 169
Kaline, AL (R) Eng HOF	$ 139
Kearns, Austin (R) A.S.I.	$ 129
Mays, Willie (A) ENG TSP	$ 449
MVP (19-Sigs) (R) ENG	$ 599
Ortiz, David (R) Eng. ASI	$ 299
Perez, Tony (R) ENG GTSM	$ 139
Ripken, Cal Jr. (R) Eng. CSA	$ 499
Rose, Pete (R) "4256" MM	$ 229
Sheffield, Gary (R) ENG	$ 199
Schmidt, Mike (R) Eng. Stat GTSM	$ 269
Sosa, Sammy (LS) ENG	$ 399
Snider, Duke (R)	$ 109
Williams, Billy (R) ENG S.S.H.	$ 119

FOOTBALL 8 x 10 & 16 x 20

Addai, Joseph LSU	$29
Allen, Marcus Raid/KC $49 or 16x20	$89
Arrington, JJ Cal Bears	$25
Banks, Brad Iowa	$19
Banks, Carl NY Giants	$25
Barber, Tiki NYG $89 or 16x20	$149
Barney, Lem Lions HOF	$19
Bears Soldier Field '85 (3-Sigs)	$79
Beasley, Fred Auburn/SF	$19
Bellino, Joe Navy/Heis	$22
Berry, Raymond Colts $19 or 16x20	$49
Biletnikoff, F. Raid HOF $25 or 16x20	$59
Blue, Greg U Georgia	$25
Boldin, Anquan FSU	$35
Bowden, Bobby FSU $49 or 16x20	$79
Brady, Kyle Jaguars	$19
Branch, Cliff Raiders	$19
Branch, Deion Pats $39 or 16x20	$69
Brees, Drew Chargers	$29
Brooks, Aaron (Saints) T.S.P.	$15
Brown, Chris Titans $35 or 16x20	$75
Brown, Rosie S.S. C.S.A. (Giants)	$35
Brown, Willie (Raid) A.S.	$19
Bruce, Issac Rams GTSM	$29
Brunell, M Jags $29 or Huskies	$49
Bullock, Keith Titans/Syr	$25
Burress, Plaxico NYG $39 or 16x20	$69
Bush, Reggie USC $109 or 16x20	$159
Butz, Dave Redskins	$19
Campbell, Jason Aub/Skins	$35
Cannon, Billy LSU/Heis	$22
Cappelletti, John Rams	$19
Carter, Chris Vikings	$39
Cassady, H. (OSU Heis) T.S.P.	$19
Chambers, Chris Dolphins/Wisc	$25
Clark, Dwight San Fran	$25
Clayton, Michael LSU/Bucs	$29
Couch, Eric NEB/Heis T.S.P.	$29
Couch, Tim T.S.P. (KY/Clev)	$29
Crow, John David TX A&M Heis	$22
Davis, Glenn Army/Heis TSP	$39
Davis, Willie Packers HOF	$19
Dawson, Len T.S.P./Chiefs HOF	$35
Dayne, Ron Wisc w/ '99 Heis	$39
Delamielleure, Joe Bills HOF	$17
Dent, R. Bears SBMVP $25 or 16x20	$59
Dierdorph, Dan Cards HOF	$35
Ditka, Mike Bears "Coaching"	$45
Donovan, Art Colts HOF	$19
Dorsett, Tony Dallas/U Pitt	$49
Dutton, John Cowboys C.S.A.	$15
Dyson, K "Music City Miracle"	$39
Eller, Carl Vikings w/ HOF	$25
Evans, Lee Bills/Wisc.	$25
Faulk, Kevin Patriots	$25
Favre, Brett B.F.H. Packers	$109
Foote, Larry Steelers/Mich	$29
Foster, DeShaun Car & UCLA	$29
Gafney, Jabbar Texans/Fla	$25
Galloway, Joey Bucs $29 or 16x20	$59
Gamble, Chris Ohio St	$21
Gates, Antonio Chargers $39 or 16x20	$69
George, Eddie OSU/Titans 16x20	$99
Givens, David Patriots	$12
Glover, LaRoi Dallas	$15
Green, Ahman Packers $39 or 16x20	$69
Griese, Bob Miami HOF	$45
Hagan, Derek AZ St	$25
Haley, Charles Dallas/SF	$19
Hanburger, Chris (Skins Hog)	$15
Harper, Alvin Vols/Dallas	$19
Harris, Franco Steelers $89 or 16x20	$129
Harris, Tommie OU/Bears	$19
Hart, Jim Cards S.S.	$17
Hawk, A.J. $39 Ohio St	$79
Henry, Travis Titans/Vols	$25
Horning, Paul HOF $29 or 16x20	$59
Howard, Des Mich/GB $21 or 16x20	$59
Jacoby, Joe Redskins Hogs	$17
Jaworski, Ron Eagles	$19
Jenkins, Michael Ohio St./Atl	$29
Johnson, Chad Bengals	$49
Johnson, Larry Penn St./Chiefs	$39
Johnson, Rudi Bengals	$29
Joiner, Charlie (Chargers) HOF	$19
Jones, Deacon HOF Rams/SD	$25
Jones, Kevin Va. Tech	$25
Jones, Stan HOF (Bears)	$17
Kelly, Leroy HOF Browns	$19
Kilmer, Billy M.M. Skins	$19
Kosar, Bernie Clev/Canes	$39
Krause, Paul HOF C.S.A Vikings	$25
Krenzel, Craig Ohio St	$19
Langer, Jim HOF CSA Dolphins	$19
Lattner, Johnny N.D. Heis	$22
Lavelli, Dante Browns HOF	$19
Lefors, Stefan Louisville	$19
Leinart, Matt USC $109 or 16x20	$159
Lelie, Ashley Den/HI	$19
Lilly, Bob Dallas HOF	$25
Little, Larry (Miami) HOF	$19
Lofton, James Packers HOF	$29
Lynch, John Devner $59 or 16x20	$89
Mackey, John Colts/HOF	$19
Majors, Johnny U Pitt	$25
Manning, Eli NYG/MS $109 16x20	$169
Manning, Peyton Colts/Vols 16x20	$199
Marchetti, Gino (Colts) HOF	$19
Maynard, Don T.S.P. Jets HOF	$19
McAllister, D. Saints $29 or 16x20	$59
McCaffrey, Ed Denver	$35
McGinest, Willie Pats $19 or 16x20	$45
McMahon, Jim Bears	$39
McMichael, Randy UGA/Dolphins	$25
McNown, Cade UCLA/Bears	$15
Miller, Heath Steelers $35 or 16x20	$69
Mitchell, Bobby Skins HOF	$23
Montana, Joe $109 or 16x20	$159
Moore, Lenny HOF '75 C.S.A.	$17
Morency, Vernand OK St./Texans	$19
Morrall, Earl "68 MVP" Colts T.S.P.	$17
Nebraska Heis 3-Sig (Rozier,Rodgers,Crouch)	$49
Nguyen, Dat Dal/TX A&M	$19
Nugent, Mike Ohio St.	$19
Okoye, Christain KC Chiefs	$17
Orton, Kyle Bears/Purdue	$29
Owens, Steve '69 Heis. OU	$22
Parrish, Roscoe Canes/Bills	$25
Perkins, Don Dallas ROY	$19
Perry, Chris Mich/Cinn	$29
Perry, Wm. "Fridge" Bears	$25
Pihos, Phil HOF 70 C.S.A./Eagles	$19
Plunkett, Jim Raiders $39 or 16x20	$79
Renfro, Mel (Dallas) HOF	$23
Rice, Jerry SF/Raiders	$89
Richardson, Tony KC & Auburn	$19
Rodgers,J Nebraska Heis'80 T.S.P.	$19
Rogers, Carlos Auburn	$29
Rolle, Antrel U. Miami	$25
Russell, Darrell (Oak) S.B.	$ 5
Salaam, Rashan Col/Heis	$19
Sayers, Gale Bears HOF	$39
Selmon, LeRoy OU/Bucs HOF	$23
Sims, Billy Lions T.S.P./OU/Heis	$22
Smith, Jimmy Jaguars	$25
Stallworth, Donte Vols & Saints	$25
Stallworth, John Steelers HOF	$35
Stautner, Ernie Steelers HOF	$29
Stenerud, Jan (K.C.)/HOF	$19
Stephenson, Dwight Miami HOF	$25
Sullivan, Pat Auburn Heis	$25
Taylor, Charley Skins/HOF 84 C.S.A.	$19
Taylor, Fred Jags W.S.	$25
Thomas, Thurman (Bills/OSU)	$35
Tittle, Y.A. NY/SF HOF $29 or 16x20	$59
Toomer, Amani NYG $29 or 16x20	$59
Toretta, Gino U Miami Heis	$22
Walker, Herschel UGA $45 or 16x20	$79
Ward, Charlie FSU/Heis	$45
White, Chas (USC Heis) T.S.P.	$19
Wilcox, Dave SF HOF	$19
Williams, C. Aub/Bucs $79 or 16x20	$109
Williams, DJ U.Miami	$19
Williams, Roy $49 Dal/OU or 16x20	$79
Winfield, Antoine Ohio St.	$23
Woodson, Charles Mich $49 or 16x20	$79
Young, Steve SF $89 or 16x20	$129

BASKETBALL 8 x 10

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem Lakers 16x20	$139
Arizin, Paul	$ 22
Bird, Larry Celtics 16x20	$169
Carter, Vince Nets/UNC 16x20	$129
Cousey, Bob Celtics 16x20	$ 99
Frazier, Walt (N.Y.) M.M.	$ 29
Gervin, George "Iceman" S.S.	$ 35
Hardaway, A. (Magic)(F) UDA (Athlon)	$ 49
Hayes, Chuck (Kentucky) A.A.	$ 25
Igoudala, Andre 76ers	$ 29
Johnson, Magic 16x20 A.S.L.	$139
Kemp, S. (Sea) (F) UDA (Athlon)	$ 49
Livingston, Shawn Clippers	$ 19
Maggette, Corey Clippers	$ 25
Magic/Kareem Dual Sig. 16x20	$199
Mercer, Ron (Ky) Athlon	$ 15
Myles, Ellis Louisville	$ 25
O'Bannon, Larry Louisville	$ 25
Okafor, Emeka U.Conn 16x20	$ 89
Robertson, Oscar Bucks HOF	$ 69
Thurmond, Nate Warriors HOF	$ 25
Walton, Bill Cletics 16x20	$ 69

BASKETBALLS

Abdur-Rahim, S I/O S.B.	$ 59
Anthony, Carmello I/O	$ 399
Bird, Larry I/O S.S.	$ 349
Camby, Marcus I/O	$ 99
Carter, Vince I/O S.S.	$ 329
Cousey, Bob I/O	$ 169
Drexler, Clyde I/O S.B.	$ 99
Erving, Julius I/O RDM	$ 329
Erving, Julius Dr. J OFC ABA	$ 369
Frazier, Walt I/O S.S.	$ 149
Havlicek, John I/O w/HOF	$ 199
Jabbar, K. Abdul I/O GTSM	$ 299
James, LeBron OFC UDA	$ 599
Johnson, Magic I/O ASL	$ 329
Jordan, M. U.D.A. Wilson	$1,499
Kidd, Jason I/O S.S.	$ 199
McGrady, Tracy I/O	$ 299
O'Neal, Shaq MM	$ 399
Pippen, Scottie I/O	$ 249
Robertson, Oscar I/O	$ 199
Smith, Joe S.B. I/O	$ 59
Thomah, Isiah I/O	$ 189

BASEBALLS & 8 x 10 PHOTOS

Players	8x10	Baseball
Aaron, Hank S.S.	-	$ 229
Arroyo, Bronson Red Sox	$ 15	-
Bahnsen, Stan NYY	$ 15	$ 39
Banks, Ernie MLB	$ 59	$ 119
Bauer, Hank S.S.	$ 12	$ 39
Bench, J. HOF GTSM	-	$ 99
Berra, Yogi MLB	-	$ 99
Blue, Vida 71 MVP	$ 19	$ 39
Boggs, Wade	-	$ 109
Bonds, Barry B.HOLO	-	$ 449
Boyer, Clete S.S.	$ 15	$ 39
Branca/Thompson w/ INSC	-	$ 89
Brett, George HOF	-	$ 139
Burrell, Pat ASI	-	$ 59
Butler, Brett CSA	$ 14	$ 29
Cano, Robinson	-	$ 79
Canseco, Jose 86 ROY	$ 25	$ 59
Carlton, S. MLB	$ 39	$ 59
Carter, Gary HOF	-	$ 69
Casey, Sean MLB	$ 29	$ 59
Cepeda, D. 67 MVP S.S.	$ 25	$ 49
Chavez, Eric A.S.I.	-	$ 59
Contreras, Jose '05 W.S.	-	$ 119
Dawson, A. T.S.P.	$ 25	$ 49
Drew, JD	-	$ 55
Dunn, Adam ASI	$ 29	$ 69
Feller, Bob HOF	$ 19	$ 49
Fingers, Rollie HOF	$ 19	$ 59
Floyd, Cliff Mets	$ 25	$ 69
Ford, Whitey S.S.	$ 59	$ 109
Foster, George GTSM	$ 19	$ 45
Furcall, Rafael T.S.P.	-	$ 59
Garvey, Steve T.S.P.	$ 15	$ 49
Gibson, Bob MLB	$ 45	-
Gonzalez, Juan MLB	-	$ 49
Gooden, Doc NNY	$ 17	$ 45
Gordon, Tom "Flash"	-	$ 49
Griffey, Ken Jr. U.D.A.	-	$ 239
Gwynn, Tony A.S.L.	-	$ 129
Helton, Todd SS	-	$ 89
Hernandez, K.'79 NL MVP	-	$ 49
Hernandez, Willie	-	$ 39
Hillenbrand, Shea T.S.P.	-	$ 59
Horner, Bob CSA	$ 15	$ 35
Howard, Frank C.S.A.	$ 13	$ 29
Hudson, Tim ASI	-	$ 89
Hunter, Tori C.S.A.	$ 25	$ 69
Irvin, Monte HOF	$ 25	$ 49
Jackson, Reggie M.M.	$ 89	$ 159
Jenkins, Fergie S.S.	$ 25	$ 45
Jenks, Bobby 05 W.S.	-	$ 79
Jeter, Derek S.S.	$ 250	$ 399
Jones, Andruw A.S.	$ 49	$ 89
Jones, Chipper	-	$ 119
Justice, Dave T.S.P.	$ 25	$ 45
Kaline, Al T.S.P.	$ 39	$ 69
Kearns, Austin T.S.P.	-	$ 49
Killebrew, H. S.B.	$ 45	$ 79
Kiner, Ralph T.S.P.	$ 15	$ 35
Larsen, Don T.S.	$ 29	$ 59
Lee, Carlos	$ 25	$ 65
Lee, Derek SS	-	$ 109
Lynn, Fred	$ 25	$ 49
Maddux, Greg A.S.L.	-	$ 219
Marichal, Juan	$ 25	$ 59
Mattingly, Don S.S.	-	$ 109
Mays, Willie M.HOLO	-	$ 229
McLain, Denny "31-6"	$ 17	$ 39
Molitor, Paul	-	$ 99
Mondesi, Raul A.S.I.	-	$ 45
Morgan, Joe S.S.	-	$ 79
Mulder, Mark T.S.P.	-	$ 99
Murphy, Dale	-	$ 69
Musial, Stan S.M.I.	$ 69	$ 109
Myres, Brett A.S.I.	$ 17	$ 45
Nettles, Graig NYY	-	$ 19
Newcombe, Don '56 CY	$ 19	$ 45
Niekro, P. HOF S.B.	$ 29	$ 59
Nixon, Trot T.S.P./MLB	-	$ 99
Oliva, Tony	$ 19	-
Palmer, Jim S.S.	$ 27	$ 59
Parker, Dave C.S.A.	-	$ 39
Payton, Jay A.S.I.	-	$ 45
Penny, Brad A.S.I.	-	$ 59
Pepitone, Joe (NYY)	$ 17	$ 45
Perez, Tony M.M.	$ 29	$ 59
Perry, Gaylord	$ 19	$ 49
Podres, Johnny	$ 19	$ 45
Podsednik, Scott '05 W.S.	-	$ 99
Powell, Boog C.S.A.	$ 19	$ 45
Pujols, Albert Elite	-	$ 399
Rice, Jim T.S.P.	$ 25	$ 49
Richardson, Bobby	$ 17	$ 39
Ripken, Cal Jr. S.S.	-	$ 225
Rizzuto, Phil S.S	$ 39	$ 69
Roberts, Robin T.S./HOF	$ 25	$ 49
Robinson, B. S.B.	$ 29	$ 59
Robinson, Frank S.S.	$ 39	-
Rodriguez, Alex S.S.	-	$ 389
Rose, Pete S.S./C.S.A.	$ 59	$ 89
Ryan, Nolan T.S.P.	-	$ 149
Sandberg, Ryne T.S.P.	$ 99	$ 139
Santiago, Benito	-	$ 39
Schilling, Curt S.S.	-	$ 259
Schmidt, Mike HOF	$ 69	$ 99
Schoendienst, Red	-	$ 39
Seaver, Tom A.S.L.	-	$ 99
Shantz, B. "52 MVP" S.S.	$ 15	$ 39
Sheffield, Gary	-	$ 109
Sierra, Ruben	-	$ 49
Skowron, Moose	$ 15	$ 39
Smith, Ozzie MLB/ASL	$ 69	$ 99
Smoltz, John	-	$ 119
Snider, Duke SS	$ 29	$ 59
Sosa, Sammy ASI/MM	-	$ 299
Stewart, Dave		$ 59
Strawberry, D. Mets	$ 19	$ 59
Sutton, Don HOF T.S.P.	-	$ 59
Tejada, Miguel SS	-	$ 109
Terry, Ralph A.S.	$ 15	-
Tresh, Tom (Roy)	$ 15	$ 39
Turley, B. "58 Cy"	$ 17	$ 39
Uribe, Juan 05 W.S.	-	$ 79
Wakefield, Tim	$ 25	$ 69
Weaver, Earl T.S.P.	$ 19	$ 45
Williams, Billy S.S.	$ 25	$ 59
Willis, Dontrell T.S.P.	-	$ 89
Wills, Maury C.S.A.	$ 19	$ 45
Winfield, Dave HOF SS	-	$ 99
Womack, Tony	-	$ 39
Zambrano, Victor (Japan)	-	$ 49

B.F.H.: Brett Favre Hologram
U.D.A.: Upper Deck Auth.
S.B.: Score Board
M.M.: Mounted Memories
T.S.P.: Tri-Star Productions
S.S.: Steiner Sports
C.S.A.: Collectors Showcase
RDM: Real Deal Memorabilia
SSH: Schwartz Sports
GAI: Global Authentic

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Sometimes Charlie Weis is about as subtle as a hammer to the head. The sign that hangs from the rafters of the weight room in the Guglielmino Athletics Complex on the campus of Notre Dame is a perfect example. It reads: "9–3 Is Not Good Enough!"

"The No. 1 objective of this football team is to raise their own expectations," says Weis, now in his second season amidst the transformation of Notre Dame back into a national power.

"Last year the football team just didn't know whether they were going to be any good or not. I'm hoping that they're not satisfied with the season they had last year. I know that I'm not satisfied."

Weis did more than improve a 6–6 squad to 9–3, including a trip to the Fiesta Bowl. He transformed the way his squad thought and, more important, produced.

The greatest difference came on the offensive side of the ball — Weis' specialty — where the Irish went from 81st in the country in total offense to 10th. Led by quarterback Brady Quinn, the Irish became a threat to score at any time. They are a greater threat in 2006 with Quinn, a leading Heisman Trophy candidate, and seven other returning starters on offense.

Concerns remain on the defensive side of the ball, where the Irish must replace veteran leaders Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays at linebacker. But whereas last year's team thought it could be good, this year's version knows it can and should be great.

"We have a better idea of the personality of our team," Weis says. "There are things that we didn't do very well that we're going to do better. We're just going to fix them. At least now we have a pretty good idea of what we can and cannot do, and that allows you to take your game to another level."

That level could be a legitimate quest for a national title.

Quarterbacks Quinn enters the 2006 season as arguably the leading candidate to claim the Heisman Trophy. Quinn quickly went from nondescript quarterback to a Heisman frontrunner in Weis' multi-pronged attack, obliterating Irish single-season records, throwing for 3,919 yards and 32 touchdown passes last season.

"It's only logical that (Quinn) would be a (Heisman) candidate," Weis says. "What I say to him is just go win as many games as you can and the accolades will follow."

Weis' greatest challenge at quarterback is finding a legitimate heir apparent to Quinn. David Wolke and Evan Sharpley are devoid of playing experience. True freshmen Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer are considered immediate candidates for the backup job.

Running Backs Junior Darius Walker played his best football at the end of the season, even though he opened the 2005 campaign with four straight 100-yard performances. His seven 100-yard efforts — including 186 yards on 35 carries against Stanford — highlighted a 1,196-yard season.

Weis will look for ways to incorporate senior Travis Thomas (248 yards in '05). Freshman James Aldridge, who enrolled in the spring, has a chance to contribute. Fellow rookies Munir Prince and Luke Schmidt add different dimensions to the backfield.

Sophomore fullback Asaph Schwapp was on the field more than any other rookie last year and had 27 carries for 67 yards.

NUMBERS GAME

8 The Fighting Irish have lost eight consecutive bowl games.

Receivers The Irish lost a weapon in wideout Maurice Stovall (69 receptions, 1,149 yards, 11 TDs) but regained another in veteran Rhema McKnight, who joins All-American Jeff Samardzija (77, 1,249, 15) to form another dynamic wideout duo.

McKnight suffered a season-ending knee injury in the second game of the season against Michigan. His return stabilizes the receiving corps. He led the Irish in receptions in 2003 (47) and 2004 (42).

Samardzija was brilliant as a junior, scoring touchdowns in the first eight games of '05 and 10 out of 12 on the season. His 1,249 yards set a Notre Dame single-season record. His 77 receptions tied him with former Irish great Tom Gatewood (1970).

Sophomores David Grimes and D.J. Hord figure to be in the mix.

The Irish must replace well-rounded tight end Anthony Fasano but appear to have capable candidates in senior John Carlson and fifth-year senior Marcus Freeman, a favorite of Weis' in the spring. Konrad Reuland is one of the more highly touted players in the freshman class.

Offensive Linemen Notre Dame returns four of the six offensive linemen who played on a regular basis in '05. Gone are mainstays Dan Stevenson and Mark LeVoir, who formed the right side of the line. Left tackle Ryan Harris, guard/center Bobby Morton, guard Dan Santucci and center John Sullivan return to anchor what should be a very capable offensive front.

Fifth-year senior Brian Mattes will have the first crack at one of the vacated slots on the right side. Inexperienced sophomores Paul Duncan and Michael Turkovich are needed for depth purposes.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE IRISH

Notre Dame averaged 36.7 points per game in 2005 — the most since averaging 37.0 points in 1996. But look for the Irish to be equally dangerous with the football this season. Quarterback Brady Quinn is a leading Heisman Trophy candidate, and despite the loss of receiving weapons Maurice Stovall and Anthony Fasano, there should be more than enough targets with senior All-America wideout Jeff Samardzija and the return of fifth-year split end Rhema McKnight, who suffered a season-ending knee injury last September. Most of the questions remain on defense where the Irish are searching for capable replacements for linebackers Brandon Hoyte and Corey Mays. The emphasis in the spring by the defensive line was the pass rush, with end Victor Abiamiri and tackles Derek Landri and Trevor Laws boasting plenty of experience. The secondary, though intact from 2005, will remain a question mark until the Ohio State scorching in the Fiesta Bowl is considered a pattern from the past. An overlooked loss from the 2005 season is kicker/punter D.J. Fitzpatrick. His replacements, kicker Carl Gioia and punter Geoff Price, have big shoes to fill.

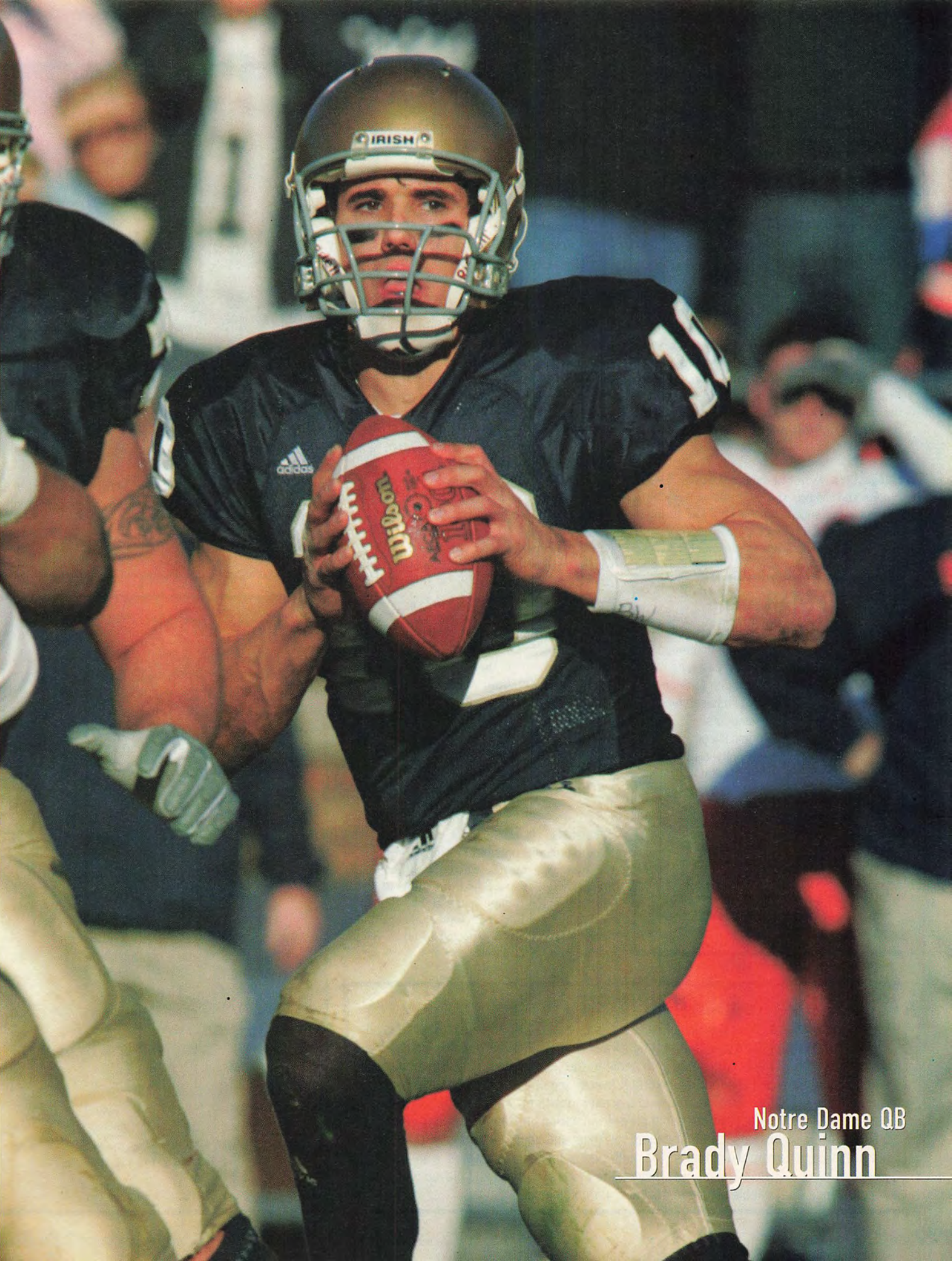
Jeff Samardzija

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	at Georgia Tech	W
S.	9	Penn State	W
S.	**16**	**Michigan**	*
S.	23	at Michigan State	W
S	30	Purdue	W
O.	7	Stanford	W
O.	21	UCLA	W
O.	28	#Navy	W
N.	4	North Carolina	W
N.	11	at Air Force	W
N.	18	Army	W
N.	**25**	**at USC**	*
		#Baltimore, MD	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Quinn: John Grieshop; Samardzija: John Grieshop



Notre Dame QB

Brady Quinn

Six freshmen arrive this fall to fill out the depth chart, including prep All-America tackle Sam Young. Rookie Chris Stewart enrolled in the spring and participated in spring drills to get a jump on the competition.

Defensive Linemen Everyone but backup Brian Beidatsch returns on a defensive line that was solid but seldom spectacular in '05. Ends Victor Abiamiri, Chris Frome, Ronald Talley and Justin Brown should be better simply from age and increased experience.

Interior linemen Derek Landri and Trevor Laws boast plenty of experience and talent. They are considered to be a major strength for coordinator Rick Minter's stop-unit.

Depth at defensive tackle is a concern, although Pat Kuntz and Derrell Hand are now sophomores. Freshmen John Ryan, Paddy Mullen and Kallen Wade will add numbers to the defensive front. But the defensive line will be one of the top priorities in the upcoming recruiting class.

Linebackers Without departed veteran leaders Hoyte and Mays, the Irish boast very little playing experience at linebacker. The numbers are there, but the talent may be lacking.

Junior Maurice Crum Jr. started all 12 games and performed admirably (57 tackles, three for a loss) at Apache (outside) linebacker in '05. He may be forced inside to replace Hoyte and/or Mays.

Leading candidates to land a starting spot are seniors Joe Brockington and Mitchell Thomas, and junior Anthony Vernaglia.

Sophomores Steve Quinn, Scott Smith and Kevin Washington show promise. Freshmen Toryan Smith and Morrice Richardson may be forced into action early.

Defensive Backs All four starters return, led by senior Tom Zbikowski, the safety-turned-boxer who is on the undercard of a pay-per-view fight at Madison Square Garden in June. Last season, Zbikowski scored four touchdowns — returning two punts and two interceptions for scores. The hard-hitting enforcer also recorded 71 tackles and five interceptions while serving as the inspirational leader of the Irish secondary.

Senior Mike Richardson has a wealth of experience at cornerback, while senior Ambrose Wooden started all 12 games in '05. Neither, however, has proven to be the lock-down coverage guy the Irish seek.

Junior Leo Ferrine saw plenty of action in nickel formations. Classmate Terrail Lambert may be ready to get into the mix.

Senior Chinedum Ndukwe, who was Quinn's top receiving target in high school, has made the move to safety with mixed results, although he has shown a nose for the football by recovering four fumbles. Sophomores David Bruton and Ray Herring also earned special commendation from their head coach in the spring.

Specialists Replacing D.J. Fitzpatrick, who handled the punting and kicking chores each of the past two seasons, will be a difficult task. Senior Carl Gioia was the frontrunner at kicker in the spring, although senior Bobby Renkes or freshman Ryan Burkhart could challenge Gioia. Senior Geoff Price is expected to take over the punting responsibilities.

Darius Walker

RISING STAR

Fifth-year senior tight end Marcus Freeman was caught in a logjam behind Anthony Fasano and John Carlson, two pass-catching standouts emphasized strongly in Charlie Weis' attack. Fasano bypassed a fifth year of eligibility to enter the pros with Carlson moving up to the No. 1 spot on the depth chart. But it was Freeman who caught Weis' attention in the spring.

SCOUTING THE FIGHTING IRISH

Opposing coaches size up Notre Dame: "I was impressed with the quarterback play. I think Charlie (Weis) did a good job getting (Brady Quinn) turned around — just a tremendous job....I was concerned with some of the (pick routes) plays run against us that could have been called. They weren't exactly legal, but they don't always get caught or called. Other than that, they do a great job with formations, utilizing the personnel. They'll run a lot of the same plays from various formations. You have to adjust to their formations, and that makes you think and adjust defensively. If you're not prepared, it can be a nightmare. The multitude of formations creates problems if your kids can't adjust....The biggest thing is their kids competed and played with a lot of confidence. That enabled them to play at a very high level."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

It's on me You don't have to look far for someone to take the blame for Notre Dame's two-touchdown loss to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl in which the Irish surrendered a school-record 617 yards. "Any time your team apparently is not ready to go after a long layoff, you really can only blame it on one person," coach Charlie Weis says. "Who else can you blame it on? The (last) game (of the regular season was) Nov. 26. We had until Jan. 2. You've got five weeks to get ready to go and I just didn't feel it was a very good performance..."

Heisman hype Weis doesn't worry much about Brady Quinn becoming too full of himself amidst the distractions of the Heisman Trophy hype. "You won't have to worry about him getting too big a head," says Weis with a devilish grin. "That I can promise you. We'll keep on hammering that nail."

No friend of mine No one will ever accuse Weis of playing favorites. The contenders play; the pretenders sit. "I'm going to play the guys that give us the best chance to win," Weis says. "I don't care who they are. I'm not here to make buddies."

Peter Brouillet

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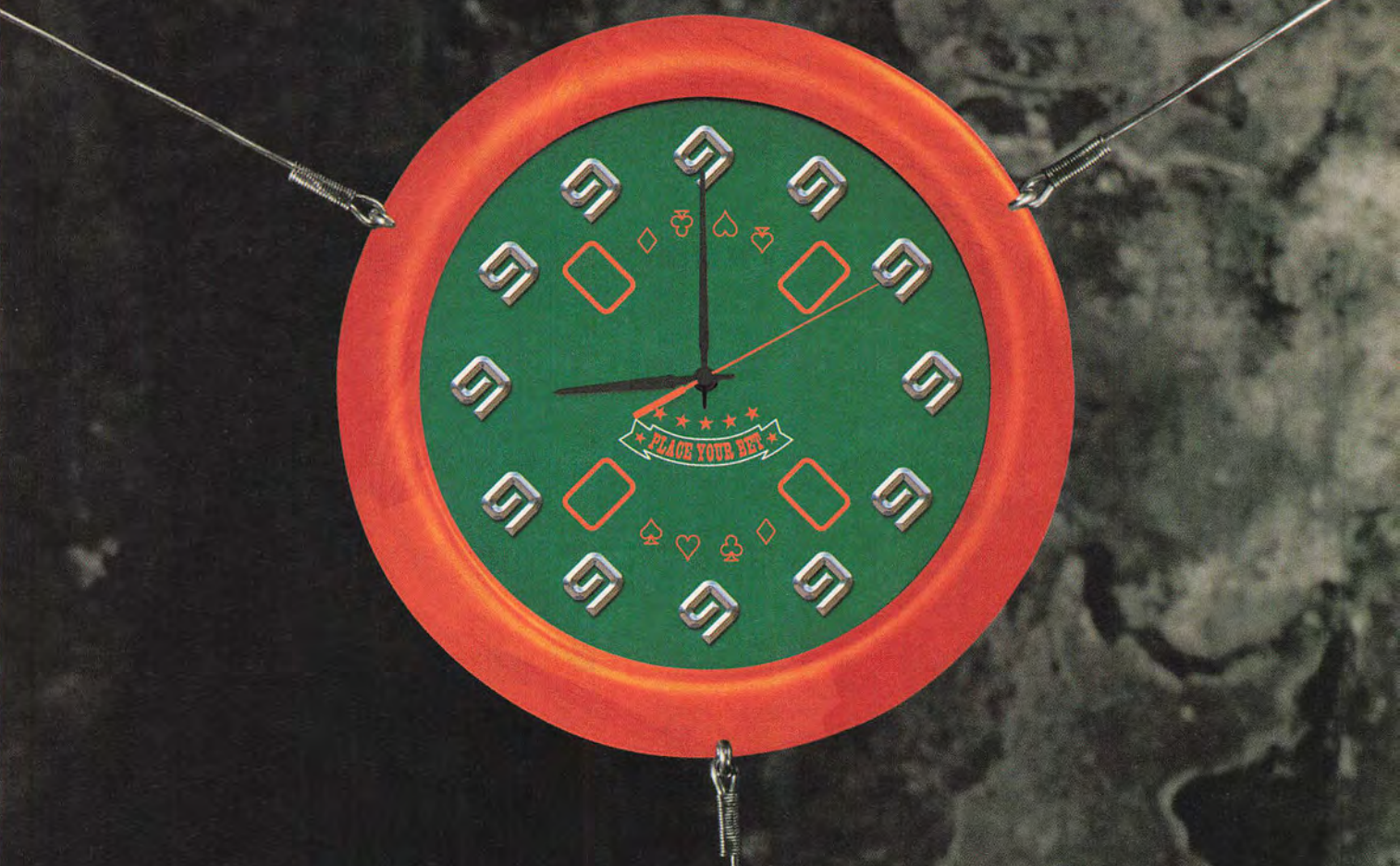

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2006 NOTRE DAME ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
16 Gillett, Justin	QB	5'11"	175	Jr.	Santa Barbara, CA
17 Gorski, Dan	QB	6'3"	196	So.	Omaha, NE
10 Quinn, Brady	QB	6'4"	231	Sr.	Dublin, OH
13 Sharpley, Evan	QB	6'2"	207	So.	Marshall, MI
14 Wolke, David	QB	6'2"	196	Jr.	Mount Juliet, TN
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
34 Aldridge, James	RB	6'1"	215	Fr.	Crown Point, IN
49 Augustyn, Matt	RB	6'3"	220	Sr.	Chevy Chase, MD
33 Hoskins, Justin	RB	5'10"	186	Jr.	Grand Rapids, MI
27 Lyons, John	RB	6'1"	205	Sr.	Sioux Falls, SD
35 McConnell, Ashley	RB	6'0"	247	Sr.	Adairsville, GA
44 Schwapp, Asaph	RB	6'0"	250	So.	Hartford, CT
26 Thomas, Travis	RB	6'0"	215	Sr.	Washington, PA
3 Walker, Darius	RB	5'10"	208	Jr.	Lawrenceville, GA
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
23 Anastasio, Chase	WR	6'2"	203	Sr.	Burke, VA
7 Bragg, Darrin	WR	6'1"	192	Jr.	San Jose, CA
37 Cardillo, Craig	WR	6'0"	175	Sr.	Hauppauge, NY
89 Carlson, John	TE	6'6"	254	Sr.	Litchfield, MN
24 Erickson, Brandon	WR	6'0"	178	Jr.	Marlboro, NJ
87 Freeman, Marcus	TE	6'3"	245	Sr.	St. Paul, MN
11 Grimes, David	WR	6'0"	170	So.	Detroit, MI
85 Gritzman, Tim	TE	6'4"	250	Jr.	Lockport, IL
1 Hord, D.J.	WR	6'1"	198	So.	Lee's Summit, MO
5 McKnight, Rhema	WR	6'2"	207	Sr.	Inglewood, CA
38 Possley, Nick	WR	6'1"	183	Jr.	Wheaton, IL
83 Samardzija, Jeff	WR	6'5"	216	Sr.	Valparaiso, IN
86 Talerico, Mike	TE	6'5"	245	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
19 West, George	WR	5'8"	172	Fr.	Spencer, OK
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
64 Chervanick, Dan	OL	6'1"	259	Sr.	Leesport, PA
72 Duncan, Paul	OL	6'7"	292	So.	Dallas, GA
68 Harris, Ryan	OL	6'5"	288	Sr.	St. Paul, MN
79 Mattes, Brian	OL	6'6"	285	Sr.	Larksville, PA
76 Morton, Bob	OL	6'4"	292	Sr.	McKinney, TX
50 Santucci, Dan	OL	6'4"	290	Sr.	Chicago, IL
59 Stewart, Chris	OL	6'5"	340	Fr.	Spring, TX
78 Sullivan, John	OL	6'4"	298	Sr.	Old Greenwich, CT
63 Tisak, Jeff	OL	6'3"	305	So.	Ambridge, PA
77 Turkovich, Michael	OL	6'6"	290	So.	Bedford, PA
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
95 Abiamiri, Victor	DL	6'4"	260	Sr.	Randallstown, MD
94 Brown, Justin	DL	6'3"	247	Jr.	Clinton, MD
60 Cullen, Casey	DL	6'1"	238	Sr.	Victoria, TX
75 Frome, Chris	DL	6'5"	268	Sr.	Saugus, CA
92 Hand, Derrell	DL	6'3"	301	So.	Philadelphia, PA
69 Kennedy, Neil	DL	5'11"	260	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
96 Kuntz, Pat	DL	6'2"	267	So.	Indianapolis, IN
66 Landri, Derek	DL	6'3"	263	Sr.	Concord, CA
98 Laws, Trevor	DL	6'1"	293	Sr.	Burnsville, MN
57 Stephenson Jr., Dwight	DL	6'2"	252	Jr.	Delray Beach, FL
99 Talley, Ronald	DL	6'4"	261	Jr.	Detroit, MI
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
58 Banda, Abdel	LB	6'1"	220	Jr.	Orange, NJ
56 Borseti, Nick	LB	6'4"	238	Sr.	Saugus, MA
52 Brockington, Joe	LB	6'1"	212	Sr.	Palmyra, PA
40 Crum Jr., Maurice	LB	6'0"	220	Jr.	Riverview, FL
48 Quinn, Steve	LB	6'2"	215	So.	Cherry Hill, NJ
41 Smith, Scott	LB	6'3"	234	So.	Highland Park, IL
47 Thomas, Mitchell	LB	6'3"	240	Sr.	Opelika, AL
4 Vernaglia, Anthony	LB	6'3"	221	Jr.	Anaheim Hills, CA
42 Washington, Kevin	LB	6'1"	231	So.	Sugar Land, TX
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
27 Bruton, David	DB	6'2"	187	So.	Miamisburg, OH
15 Ferrine, Leo	DB	6'0"	186	Jr.	Springfield, NJ
6 Herring, Ray	DB	6'0"	199	So.	Melbourne, FL
26 Iams, Wade	DB	5'9"	182	Jr.	Mishawaka, IN
35 Kenney, Tim	DB	6'0"	180	Sr.	Belvidere, IL
20 Lambert, Terrail	DB	5'11"	188	Jr.	Oxnard, CA
28 McCarthy, Kyle	DB	6'0"	189	So.	Youngstown, OH
18 Ndukwe, Chinedum	DB	6'2"	219	Sr.	Powell, OH
32 Reynolds Jr., Alvin	DB	5'10"	180	Jr.	Terre Haute, IN
30 Richardson, Mike	DB	5'11"	193	Sr.	Warner Robins, GA
23 Williams, William David	DB	5'9"	174	Jr.	Raleigh, NC
22 Wooden, Ambrose	DB	5'11"	197	Sr.	Baltimore, MD
9 Zbikowski, Tom	DB	6'0"	208	Sr.	Arlington Heights, IL
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
45 Gioia, Carl	K	5'11"	179	Sr.	Valparaiso, IN
61 Jansen, J.J.	LS	6'3"	242	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
17 Price, Geoff	P	6'3"	186	Sr.	Hurst, TX
96 Renkes, Bobby	K	6'0"	190	Sr.	Dallas, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**83**	**Jeff Samardzija**	**Sr.**
WR	5	Rhema McKnight	Sr.
LT	**68**	**Ryan Harris**	**Sr.**
LG	**50**	**Dan Santucci**	**Sr.**
C	**78**	**John Sullivan**	**Sr.**
RG	**76**	**Bobby Morton**	**Sr.**
RT	79	Brian Mattes	Sr.
TE	**89**	**John Carlson**	**Sr.**
QB	**10**	**Brady Quinn**	**Sr.**
FB	44	Asaph Schwapp	So.
HB	**3**	**Darius Walker**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	1	D.J. Hord	So.
WR	11	David Grimes	So.
LT		Sam Young	Fr.
LG	59	Chris Stewart	Fr.
C	76	Bobby Morton	Sr.
RG	72	Paul Duncan	So.
RT	77	Michael Turkovich	So.
TE	87	Marcus Freeman	Sr.
QB	14	David Wolke	Jr.
FB	35	Ashley McConnell	Sr.
HB	26	Travis Thomas	Sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (9)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**95**	**Victor Abiamiri**	**Sr.**
DT	**98**	**Trevor Laws**	**Sr.**
NG	**66**	**Derek Landri**	**Sr.**
DE	**75**	**Chris Frome**	**Sr.**
OLB	4	Anthony Vernaglia	Jr.
MLB	**40**	**Maurice Crum Jr.**	**Jr.**
WLB	52	Joe Brockington	Sr.
CB	**30**	**Mike Richardson**	**Sr.**
CB	**22**	**Ambrose Wooden**	**Sr.**
SS	**9**	**Tom Zbikowski**	**Sr.**
WS	**18**	**Chinedum Ndukwe**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	94	Justin Brown	Jr.
DT	57	Dwight Stephenson Jr.	Jr.
NG	96	Pat Kuntz	So.
DE	99	Ronald Talley	Jr.
OLB	48	Steve Quinn	So.
MLB	47	Mitchell Thomas	Sr.
WLB	41	Scott Smith	So.
CB	20	Terrail Lambert	Jr.
CB	15	Leo Ferrine	Jr.
SS	6	Ray Herring	So.
WS	27	David Bruton	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	45	Carl Gioia	Sr.
P	17	Geoff Price	Sr.
KR	19	George West	Fr.
PR	9	Tom Zbikowski	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Charlie Weis
Record at School: 9–3 (1 year)
Career Record: 9–3 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Michael Haywood
Defensive Coordinator: Rick Minter
South Bend, Ind.
Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)

2006 SIGNEES

James Aldridge	RB	6'1"	215	Crown Point, IN
Sergio Brown	DB	6'1"	184	Maywood, IL
Ryan Burkhart	K	5'11"	185	Wakarusa, IN
Matt Carufel	OL	6'5"	288	Forest Lake, MN
Zach Frazer	QB	6'4"	215	Mechanicsburg, PA
Jashaad Gaines	DB	6'0"	195	Las Vegas, NV
Barry Gallup	WR	5'11"	175	Wellesley, MA
Leonard Gordon	DB	5'11"	195	Clarksville, TN
Richard Jackson	WR	6'3"	200	Clermont, FL
Demetrius Jones	QB	6'4"	202	Chicago, IL
Raeshon McNeil	DB	6'0"	175	Cooleemee, NC
Paddy Mullen	DL	6'5"	265	St. Louis, MO
Eric Olsen	OL	6'4"	290	Staten Island, NY
Robby Parris	WR	6'4"	185	Olmsted Falls, OH
Munir Prince	RB	5'10"	175	Florissant, MO
Konrad Reuland	TE	6'6"	239	San Capistrano, CA
Morrice Richardson	LB	6'2"	228	College Park, GA
John Ryan	DL	6'5"	240	Westlake, OH
Luke Schmidt	RB	6'3"	230	Jasper, IN
Toryan Smith	LB	6'0"	230	Rome, GA
Chris Stewart	OL	6'5"	340	Spring, TX
Kallen Wade	DL	6'5"	220	Cincinnati, OH
Darrin Walls	DB	6'1"	175	Pittsburgh, PA
Bartley Webb	OL	6'7"	290	Springdale, AR
Dan Wenger	OL	6'4"	285	Coral Springs, FL
George West	WR	5'8"	172	Spencer, OK
Sam Young	OL	6'7"	292	Coral Springs, FL

Charlie Weis and his staff put Notre Dame back on the recruiting map with a top 10 class. The Irish not only began competing with the "big boys" of recruiting once again, but they also won a few head-to-head battles, including a "victory" over USC for tight end Konrad Reuland. The Irish added firepower in the backfield with running backs James Aldridge, Munir Prince and Luke Schmidt and much-needed numbers (six) along the offensive line, led by Sam Young. Quarterbacks Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer are upgrades behind Brady Quinn, and cornerbacks Darrin Walls and Raeshon McNeil have a chance to make an immediate impact.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 9–3

Date		Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S.	3	at Pittsburgh	W	42–21	66,451
S.	10	at Michigan	W	17–10	111,386
S.	17	Michigan State	L	41–44	80,795
S.	24	at Washington	W	36–17	71,473
O.	1	at Purdue	W	49–28	65,491
O.	15	USC	L	31–34	80,795
O.	22	BYU	W	49–23	80,795
N.	5	Tennessee	W	41–21	80,795
N.	12	Navy	W	42–21	80,795
N.	19	Syracuse	W	34–10	80,795
N.	26	at Stanford	W	38–31	56,057
J.	2	#Ohio State	L	20–34	76,196
		#Fiesta Bowl			

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Brady Quinn	**450**	**292**	**3,919**	**32**	**7**
David Wolke	**3**	**1**	**28**	**0**	**1**
Rushing	**Att.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Darius Walker	**253**	**1,196**	**4.7**	**9**	
Travis Thomas	**63**	**248**	**3.9**	**5**	
Receiving	**Rec.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Jeff Samardzija	**77**	**1,249**	**16.2**	**15**	
Maurice Stovall	69	1,149	16.7	11	
Anthony Fasano	47	576	12.3	2	

Kicking: D.J. Fitzpatrick, 11-17 FGs, 52-54 XPs, 85 points
Tackles: Brandon Hoyte, 92; Corey Mays, 80
Sacks: **Victor Abiamiri, 8**
Interceptions: **Tom Zbikowski, 5**

Returning Players in Bold

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Jim Hurley
Founder & President - Jim Hurley's Network

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This is why our ATM games (All The Money) lived up to their name last year.

Check the highlights:

S17	Mich St (+6) Notre Dame	44-41	W
S19	Redskins (+6) Cowboys	14-13	W
	Redskins / Cowboys ↓35½	14-13	W
O22	Kentucky (+10) Ole Miss	7-13	W
O29	Oklahoma (-2) Nebraska	31-24	W
N19	Oklahoma (+7½) Tex Tech	21-23	W
D 3	Georgia (+1½) LSU	34-14	W
D17	Patriots (-6) Bucs	28-0	W
D18	Chargers (+7½) Colts	26-17	W
J 2	Alabama (+3½) Tex Tech	13-10	W
J 8	Panthers (+3) Giants	23-0	W

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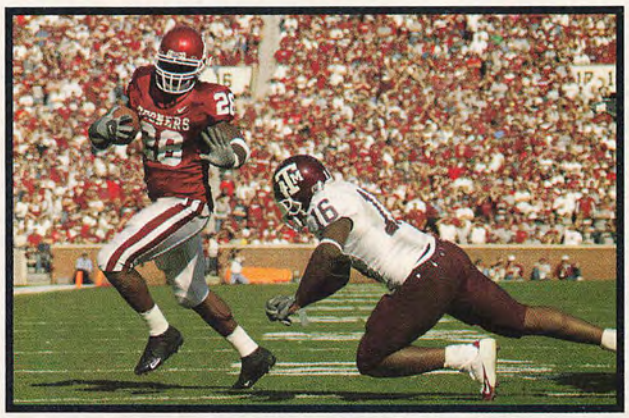
BIG 12 CONFERENCE



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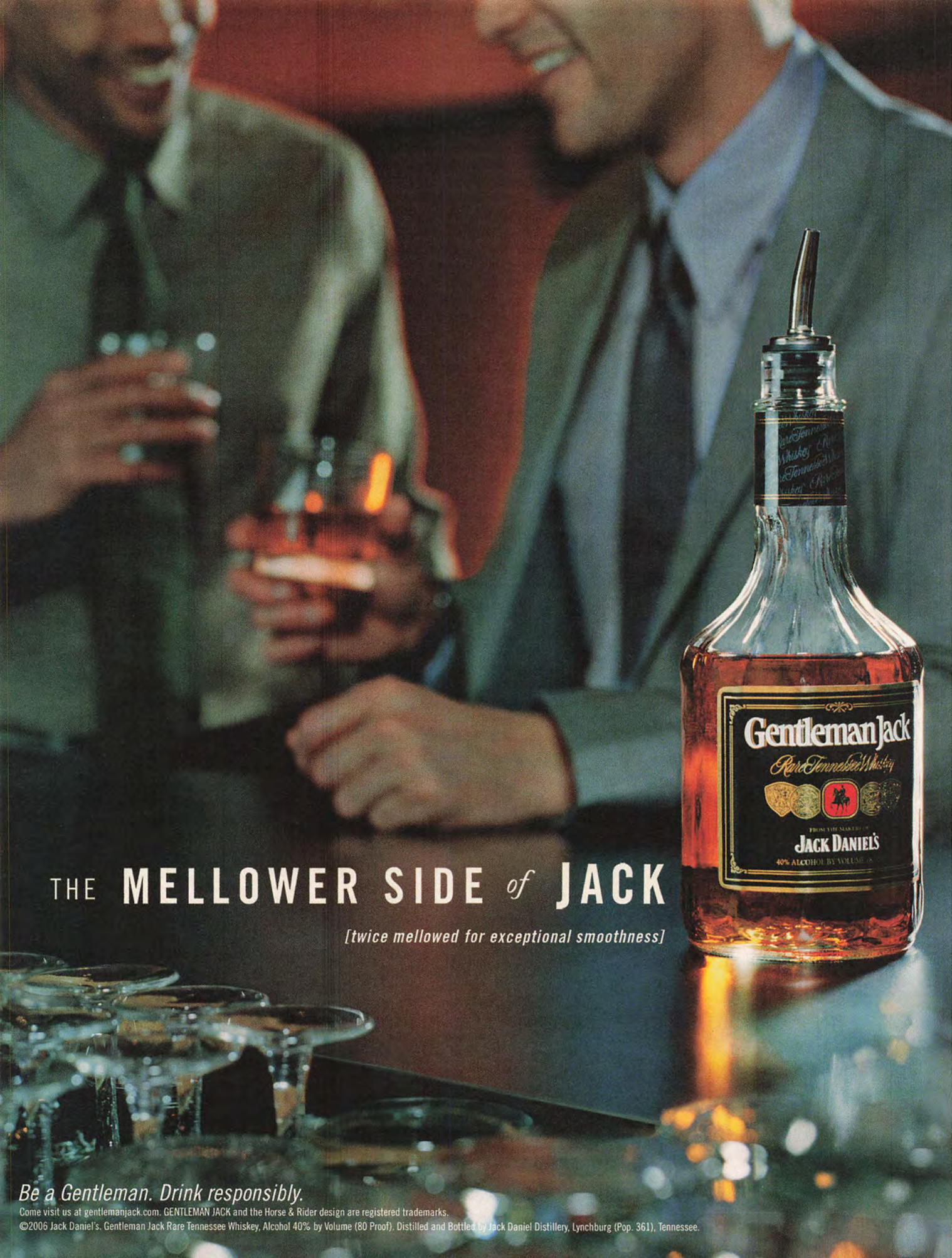
Layne Murdoch



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BIG 12 PREVIEW

BIG 12 NOTEBOOK »

Bob Stoops found himself in a role reversal last fall, sounding off about "next year," after Texas toppled his Sooners 45–12, ending five years of Oklahoma dominance in the Red River Rivalry.

One game, Stoops called it. One year. Nothing more.

"We're going to be a lot better next season," Stoops said. "No question."

And the Sooners should be, with Adrian Peterson again healthy and one of 14 players who started at least five games a year ago. But good enough?

Texas turned that October triumph into a springboard to the national championship. Confidence soars. "Our guys did not come out of the national championship game complacent," says UT coach Mack Brown, who finally shook a tiresome tag of super recruiter/sub-par coach.

OU-Texas is a series significant for its streaks. Over the last 75 years, the series features 13 winning streaks of three games or longer. The Horns own two eight-game runs. OU's won six straight once and five in a row two other times.

So there's history. But back to the here and now. The Sooners seem superior, on paper, over Texas and the rest of the Big 12.

Rhett Bomar led OU to wins in six of its final seven games as a redshirt freshman and appears capable of seizing the title of the league's top quarterback. Behind Bomar and Peterson and a revamped defense, the Sooners could surge back into national title contention.

Still, don't dismiss Texas or Brown or his famed recruiting classes. The Longhorns will trot out talent, some of it proven, like running back Jamaal Charles and defensive linemen Tim Crowder and Frank Okam.

And don't completely dismiss the North, where Nebraska looks ready to return pride to its program and its division. The Cornhuskers, who return quarterback in Zac Taylor, are finally putting the pieces in place to fully employ Bill Callahan's offense.

The rest of the North is shaky, with Iowa State rebuilding on defense and Colorado, Kansas State, Kansas and Missouri in transition at quarterback. Colorado and Kansas State are also transitioning to new coaches.

Behind the South's Big Two, Texas Tech remains a factor under Mike Leach, the only coach in the conference with wins over both OU and Texas. Leach is grooming a new quarterback for his system, but what's new? Can Texas A&M get it going under Dennis Franchione? Can Oklahoma State under Mike Gundy? And what about Baylor, which made a move up — albeit modestly, to fifth place in the South?

WHO'S UNDER CENTER?

The roll call of veteran Big 12 quarterbacks is brief. Nebraska's Zac Taylor. Oklahoma's Rhett Bomar. Iowa State's Bret Meyer. Baylor's Shawn Bell. Oklahoma State's Bobby Reid. End of roll. And in many of the league's seven remaining locales, the starting quarterbacks are undecided.

The high-profile position battle carries on at Texas, where a replacement for Vince Young is needed. Redshirt freshman Colt McCoy and true freshman Jevan Snead are the candidates, with both expected to play, at least early.

Change is nothing new at Texas Tech, where the Red Raiders will send out a new quarterback for the fifth straight year. Who's next, however, is the question in Lubbock. Sophomore Graham Harrell and freshman Chris Todd both played well in the spring, completing a combined 44-of-50 passes for 390 yards in one spring scrimmage. Harrell is the favorite to win the job.

Competition also rages at Colorado and Kansas State.

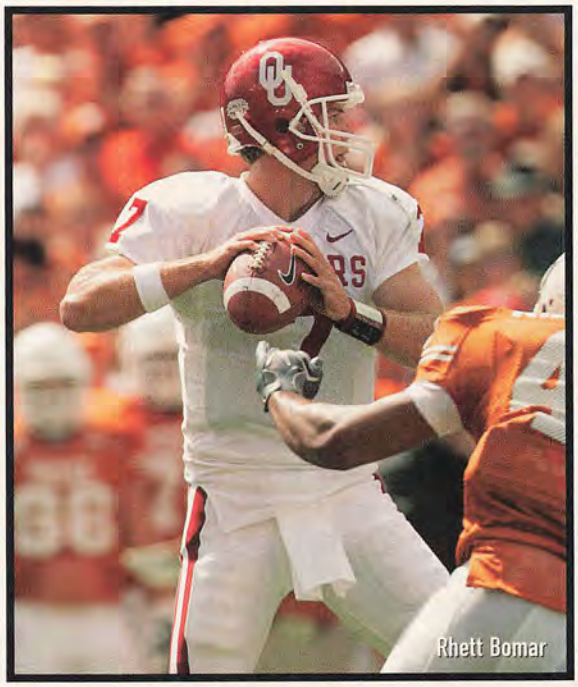
Texas A&M, with sophomore Stephen McGee; Missouri, with sophomore Chase Daniel; and Kansas, with redshirt freshman Kerry Meier, appear set with their new starters.

SPRING FEVER

Offseason? What offseason? Spring games across the Big 12 played to throngs of fans, highlighted by the 57,415 who showed up at Nebraska's annual Red-White affair. "No place in the country has this," Nebraska linebacker Steve Octavien said. "It's a game atmosphere to us."

The Huskers indeed led the league in spring game attendance, but crowds were heavy across the conference. Texas drew 41,000 and Texas A&M had 31,000.

ESPN showed up in Norman, where Oklahoma entertained 30,000 of their


Rhett Bomar

Layne Murdoch

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PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Big 12 North

1. NEBRASKA
2. KANSAS
3. IOWA STATE
4. MISSOURI
5. COLORADO
6. KANSAS STATE

Big 12 South

1. OKLAHOMA
2. TEXAS
3. TEXAS TECH
4. TEXAS A&M
5. BAYLOR
6. OKLAHOMA STATE

own, as well as a national television audience. Kansas State also drew 30,000 to its game, which capped a weekend that included a golf tournament, auction, barbecue challenge, carnival, fan festival and battle of the bands. "The focus is to bring everybody to town and make this a destination weekend," says Kansas State associate athletic director Laura Tietjen. "If you're a K-Stater, we want you to put this on your calendar every year."

Oklahoma State, emphasizing its game as a welcome-back weekend for former players, played before a record 15,000. And attendance was up elsewhere, with 9,400 at Missouri and 5,200 at Kansas.

The football wasn't all for the fans. Don't think coaches recognize opportunity? Some 80 recruits were among the massive crowd at Nebraska.

NOW IN CHARGE

The league's two new coaches, Ron Prince at Kansas State and Dan Hawkins at Colorado, will operate under contrasting expectations. Prince faces a daunting task: following local legend Bill Snyder, architect of the "Manhattan Miracle."

Most Buffs fans, however, probably welcome change after all the controversy and scandal that accompanied the Gary Barnett era in Boulder. Hawkins arrived with a pristine reputation and a promise of exciting offense, after his Boise State teams lit up scoreboards. The latter may take a while, with Colorado seeking playmakers at quarterback and wide receiver and lacking speed.

But Hawkins is creative, witnessed by the first play of the spring game — a reverse.

"I'm used to scoring a lot of points," Hawkins says.

"The learning curve has been steep ... but the buy-in was great. The kids worked hard at it."

Prince has players to work with, as the Wildcats return 41 lettermen and 16 starters from last year's team. Of course, that team finished 5–6.

EXTRA POINTS

Oklahoma State's hopes to take off in the spread offense might revolve around transfer wide receiver Adarius Bowman. A former U.S. Army All-American who started his career at North Carolina, Bowman should take pressure off fellow wideout D'Juan Woods...

A crowded backfield didn't bother Mack Brown in the spring. The Longhorns worked a herd of running backs — Selvin Young, Jamaal Charles and Henry Melton — and split reps between two quarterbacks, Jevan Snead and Colt McCoy. Brown suggests he'll make the most of the overflowing talent and play everybody. We'll see...

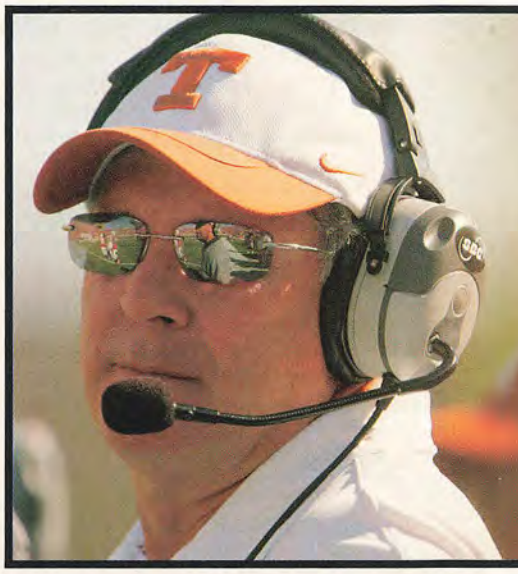
Oklahoma has hit on many position switches under Bob Stoops. Now the Sooners seem to have a home run with Reggie Smith shifting from safety to cornerback, offering the a shutdown defender who will allow the overall unit to be more aggressive...

Baylor is going radical on offense, adopting a spread passing attack comparable to Mike Leach's in Lubbock. Bears coach Guy Morriss, continuing his effort to turn around a struggling program, might need to take some chances to advance in the rugged South Division. "With a little more production out of our offense, we could have gone to a bowl," Morriss says.

2005 QUOTE

"You know your life is different when the first call you get this morning is from President Bush at 6 o'clock and (my wife) Sally asked me if I was awake and wanted to take it. I said, 'I think so.'"

— Texas coach Mack Brown, on one of the perks of winning a national championship.



KEY GAMES

SEPT. 9 OHIO STATE AT TEXAS
This is one of the top intersectional battles of the past decade.

SEPT. 16 IOWA STATE AT IOWA
Hawkeyes still smarting from last season's debacle in Ames.

SEPT. 16 NEBRASKA AT USC
Good time to take on the Trojans and make a statement nationally.

SEPT. 16 OKLAHOMA AT OREGON
Didn't these teams just play? Holiday Bowl rematch, with the stakes raised.

SEPT. 23 COLORADO AT GEORGIA
Dan Hawkins gets a taste of Gary Barnett's scheduling.

OCT. 7 OKLAHOMA VS. TEXAS (DALLAS)
Can Bob Stoops wrestle the Red River rivalry back from Mack Brown?

OCT. 7 NEBRASKA AT IOWA STATE
Huskers could take a huge step toward the North Division title.

OCT. 21 TEXAS AT NEBRASKA
Huskers not quite ready to dethrone the defending champs.

OCT. 28 TEXAS AT TEXAS TECH
Are the Red Raiders contenders or pretenders? We'll find out.

NOV. 24 COLORADO AT NEBRASKA
Buffs could play spoiler to Huskers division title hopes.

NOV. 24 TEXAS A&M AT TEXAS
Big game for the Aggies' bowl hopes — and Dennis Franchione's future.

NOV. 25 OKLAHOMA AT OKLAHOMA STATE
Cowboys — good or not so good — give the Sooners fits in Stillwater.

2005 BIG 12 STANDINGS

North Division	Big 12	Overall
COLORADO	5-3	7-6
MISSOURI	4-4	7-5
NEBRASKA	4-4	8-4
IOWA STATE	4-4	7-5
KANSAS	3-5	7-5
KANSAS STATE	2-6	5-6
South Division		
TEXAS	8-0	13-0
TEXAS TECH	6-2	9-3
OKLAHOMA	6-2	8-4
TEXAS A&M	3-5	5-6
BAYLOR	2-6	5-6
OKLAHOMA STATE	1-7	4-7

2006 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	9	12	9	11	12	11	11
COLORADO	12	6	12	2	10	6	3
IOWA STATE	1	9	2	5	6	7	8
KANSAS	11	5	10	3	4	10	6
KANSAS STATE	3	8	7	8	11	5	9
MISSOURI	8	7	5	4	2	4	5
NEBRASKA	4	10	4	12	5	2	4
OKLAHOMA	2	1	6	6	1	1	2
OKLAHOMA STATE	10	4	8	10	8	12	12
TEXAS	7	2	3	1	3	3	1
TEXAS A&M	6	3	11	9	7	9	10
TEXAS TECH	5	11	1	7	9	8	7

Bret Meyer

BIG 12 RETURNING CONFERENCE LEADERS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Bret Meyer, Iowa State	368	227	10	61.7	2,876	19	239.7
Zac Taylor, Nebraska	430	237	12	55.1	2,653	19	221.1
Shawn Bell, Baylor	320	190	6	59.4	1,964	12	196.4

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G	Long
Adrian Peterson, Oklahoma	220	1,108	5.0	14	100.7	84
Mike Hamilton, Oklahoma State	193	961	5.0	1	87.4	83
Courtney Lewis, Texas A&M	109	723	6.6	7	80.3	73

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G	Long
Joel Filani, Texas Tech	65	1,048	16.1	8	87.3	62
Todd Blythe, Iowa State	51	1,000	19.6	9	83.3	63

Tackles: Thaddaeus Washington, Colorado (112); Rufus Alexander, Oklahoma (102)

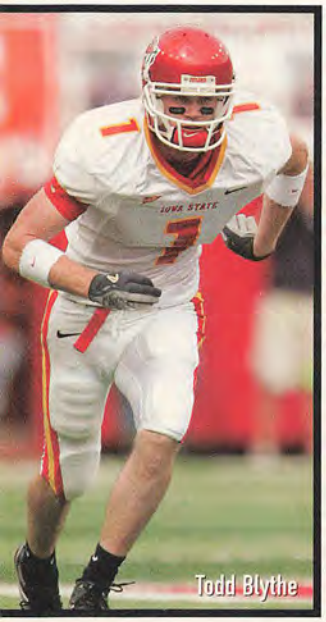
Sacks: Adam Carriker, Nebraska (9.5); Brian Smith, Missouri (9.0)

2005 BIG 12 TEAM STATS & RANKINGS

	Offense				Defense			
	Score	Rush	Pass	Total	Score	Rush	Pass	Total
Baylor	21.5 (11)	109.9 (10)	208.0 (7)	317.9 (12)	26.5 (8)	161.7 (11)	216.3 (6)	378.0 (10)
Colorado	23.5 (9)	110.3 (9)	222.8 (6)	333.1 (8)	23.6 (7)	100.2 (3)	248.9 (11)	349.2 (7)
Iowa State	28.2 (5)	110.7 (8)	239.7 (2)	350.3 (6)	19.2 (3)	102.7 (4)	242.3 (10)	345.0 (6)
Kansas	22.4 (10)	134.0 (7)	195.7 (10)	329.7 (9)	22.0 (5)	83.2 (1)	220.0 (8)	303.2 (2)
Kansas State	26.3 (7)	138.4 (6)	201.4 (9)	339.7 (7)	27.7 (9)	128.9 (6)	230.5 (9)	359.5 (8)
Missouri	30.8 (4)	205.2 (3)	224.5 (4)	429.8 (4)	29.2 (10)	151.3 (9)	217.0 (7)	368.3 (9)
Nebraska	24.7 (8)	96.0 (12)	224.3 (5)	320.3 (11)	21.0 (4)	124.2 (5)	207.9 (3)	332.2 (4)
Oklahoma	26.9 (6)	185.5 (4)	177.6 (11)	363.1 (5)	23.1 (6)	90.6 (2)	216.1 (5)	306.7 (3)
Oklahoma State	20.2 (12)	153.9 (5)	170.9 (12)	324.8 (10)	31.3 (12)	203.7 (12)	214.2 (4)	417.9 (11)
Texas	50.2 (1)	274.9 (1)	237.2 (3)	512.1 (1)	16.4 (1)	130.9 (7)	172.0 (1)	302.9 (1)
Texas A&M	32.0 (3)	234.9 (2)	207.4 (8)	442.3 (3)	31.2 (11)	139.2 (8)	304.6 (12)	443.8 (12)
Texas Tech	39.4 (2)	107.0 (11)	388.8 (1)	495.8 (2)	18.8 (2)	155.4 (10)	180.4 (2)	335.8 (5)

Brown and Meyer: Larry Smith

2006 ATHLON PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAM »


Todd Blythe

Michael Griffin

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB BRET MEYER
6'3" 208 JR. IOWA STATE
THIRD-YEAR STARTER HAS EMERGED AS BIG 12'S BEST

RB JAMAAL CHARLES
6'1" 190 SO. TEXAS
GAVE THE HORNS' ATTACK A BOOST AS A FRESHMAN

RB ADRIAN PETERSON
6'2" 218 JR. OKLAHOMA
LED LEAGUE RBS IN RUSHING DESPITE INJURY WOES

WR TODD BLYTHE
6'5" 210 JR. IOWA STATE
ALREADY SNAGGED AN ISU-RECORD 18 TD CATCHES

WR JOEL FILANI
6'3" 222 SR. TEXAS TECH
LED THE LEAGUE WITH 87.3 YARDS PER GAME

TE CHASE COFFMAN
6'6" 230 SO. MISSOURI
CAUGHT 47 BALLS FOR 503 YARDS AS A FRESHMAN

C MARK FENTON
6'4" 295 SR. COLORADO
GIVES THE BUFFS AN ANCHOR IN OFFENSIVE TRANSITION

OL JUSTIN BLAYLOCK
6'4" 329 SR. TEXAS
THE BIG HOSS IS BACK FOR ANOTHER GO-ROUND

OL AARON BRANT
6'7" 320 SR. IOWA STATE
VERSATILE VETERAN HAS 33 STARTS ON HIS RESUME

OL MANUEL RAMIREZ
6'4" 339 SR. TEXAS TECH
THE PROTOTYPE LINEMAN IN TECH'S SCHEME

OL KASEY STUDDARD
6'3" 305 SR. TEXAS
ANOTHER KEY COG IN A DOMINANT LINE

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL LARRY BIRDINE
6'4" 258 SR. OKLAHOMA
RETURNS AFTER MISSING 2005 WITH A TORN BICEP

DL ADAM CARRIKER
6'6" 280 SR. NEBRASKA
PASS-RUSHING DEMON PRODUCED 9.5 SACKS IN '05

DL TIM CROWDER
6'4" 270 SR. TEXAS
COULD BE TEXAS' FIRST DOUBLE-DIGIT SACKER SINCE '99

DL BRIAN SMITH
6'4" 230 SR. MISSOURI
MIZZOU'S ALL-TIME SACK LEADER PLAYED HURT IN 2005

LB RUFUS ALEXANDER
6'1" 231 SR. OKLAHOMA
LED HIS TEAM IN TACKLES (102) AND CONSISTENT PLAY

LB COREY MCKEON
6'1" 225 JR. NEBRASKA
ACTIVE MIDDLE BACKER RECORDED SEVEN SACKS IN '05

LB THADDAEUS WASHINGTON
5'11" 240 SR. COLORADO
LED BUFFS IN TACKLES (112), TFLS (13) AND SACKS (5)

CB REGGIE SMITH
6'1" 190 SO. OKLAHOMA
MOVE FROM SAFETY REVEALED NATURAL COVER SKILLS

CB AQIB TALIB
6'2" 180 SO. KANSAS
EMERGED AS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP YOUNG CORNERS

S J.J. BILLINGSLEY
5'11" 185 SR. COLORADO
DOESN'T MIND MIXING IT UP IN THE RUN GAME

S MICHAEL GRIFFIN
6'0" 205 SR. TEXAS
LED THE LONGHORNS IN TACKLES AND BLOCKED KICKS

SPECIALISTS

K MASON CROSBY
6'2" 210 SR. COLORADO
A WEAPON ONCE THE BUFFS REACH MIDFIELD

KR DEANDRE JACKSON
6'0" 192 SR. IOWA STATE
AVERAGED 24.6 YARDS PER RETURN A YEAR AGO

P KYLE TUCKER
6'2" 205 JR. KANSAS.
RAY GUY AWARD SEMIFINALIST AS A SOPHOMORE

PR TERRENCE NUNN
6'0" 185 JR. NEBRASKA
EASILY LED THE BIG 12 WITH AN 18.3-YARD AVERAGE

Blythe and Griffin: Larry Smith

2005 BIG 12 BOWL RESULTS

ROSE BOWL · JAN. 4 · PASADENA, CALIF.: TEXAS 41, USC 38 «» COTTON BOWL · JAN. 2 · DALLAS, TEXAS: ALABAMA 13, TEXAS TECH 10
HOUSTON BOWL · DEC. 31 · HOUSTON, TEXAS: TCU 27, IOWA STATE 24 «» INDEPENDENCE BOWL · DEC. 30 · SHREVEPORT, LA.: MISSOURI 38, SOUTH CAROLINA 31
HOLIDAY BOWL · DEC. 29 · SAN DIEGO, CALIF.: OKLAHOMA 17, OREGON 14 «» ALAMO BOWL · DEC. 28 · SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: NEBRASKA 32, MICHIGAN 28
CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL DEC. 27 · ORLANDO, FLA.: CLEMSON 19, COLORADO 10 «» FORT WORTH BOWL · DEC. 23 · FORT WORTH, TEXAS: KANSAS 42, HOUSTON 13

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BIG 12 PREVIEW

BIG SHOES TO FILL »

COLT McCOY/JEVAN SNEAD, QBS TEXAS

Whoever wins this quarterback battle gets to follow Vince Young. No pressure.

RON PRINCE, HEAD COACH, KANSAS STATE

The Wildcats are coming off a disappointing season, yet it's always dicey following a legend. Repeating Bill Snyder's success in Manhattan won't be easy.

CHASE DANIEL, QB, MISSOURI

The Tigers built their entire offense around Brad Smith, who left Columbia with 69 school, conference and national records. They won't ask Daniel to do as much. Still, he's the quarterback.

MIKE RIVERA, LB, KANSAS

Maybe the best in a young group of linebackers asked to replace three salty seniors, including '05 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Nick Reid, who finished No. 2 all-time in tackles at KU.

SHANNON WOODS, RB, TEXAS TECH

Quarterbacks get the glory in Mike Leach's system, but running back Taurean Henderson was so versatile and valuable, both running and receiving, the past four years. Woods is the frontrunner to take over.

THE BIG 12 ATHLON AWARDS »

QBs »	Iowa State
RBs »	Oklahoma
TE/WRs »	Texas Tech
OL »	Texas
DL »	Oklahoma
LBs »	Oklahoma
DBs »	Texas

An Athlon Award is handed out to the best units in each conference. See page 68 for complete rankings from each conference.

ALL-BIG 12 SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Rhett Bomar	6'2"	215	So.	Oklahoma
RB	Jon Cornish	6'0"	205	Sr.	Kansas
RB	Mike Hamilton	6'1"	220	So.	Oklahoma State
WR	Jarrett Hicks	6'3"	210	Sr.	Texas Tech
WR	D'Juan Woods	6'1"	215	Sr.	Oklahoma State
TE	Martellus Bennett	6'7"	248	So.	Texas A&M
C	Lyle Sendlein	6'5"	305	Sr.	Texas
OL	Corey Hilliard	6'5"	310	Sr.	Oklahoma State
OL	Chris Messner	6'6"	280	Sr.	Oklahoma
OL	Adam Spieker	6'2"	310	Jr.	Missouri
OL	Cody Wallace	6'4"	296	Jr.	Texas A&M

ALL-BIG 12 SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL	Rodney Allen	6'3"	280	Sr.	Kansas
DL	Brent Curvey	6'0"	295	Sr.	Iowa State
DL	Frank Okam	6'5"	315	Jr.	Texas
DL	Calvin Thibodeaux	6'1"	251	Sr.	Oklahoma
LB	Jordan Dizon	6'0"	220	Jr.	Colorado
LB	Zach Latimer	6'2"	220	Sr.	Oklahoma
LB	Justin Warren	6'3"	245	Sr.	Texas A&M
CB	Antonio Huffman	6'0"	180	Sr.	Texas Tech
CB	D.J. Wolfe	5'11"	196	Jr.	Oklahoma
S	David Overstreet	6'0"	210	Sr.	Missouri
S	Marcus Watts	6'2"	180	Jr.	Kansas State

ALL-BIG 12 SECOND TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	Jordan Congdon	5'11"	180	So.	Nebraska
P	Alex Reyes	6'1"	219	Sr.	Texas Tech
KR	Stephone Robinson	5'9"	185	Jr.	Colorado
PR	Danny Amendola	5'10"	181	Jr.	Texas Tech

ALL-BIG 12 THIRD TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Zac Taylor	6'2"	210	Sr.	Nebraska
RB	Tony Temple	5'9"	190	Jr.	Missouri
RB	Courtney Lewis	6'0"	204	Sr.	Texas A&M
WR	Limas Sweed	6'5"	219	Jr.	Texas
WR	Dominique Zeigler	6'3"	180	Sr.	Baylor
TE	Martin Rucker	6'5"	245	Jr.	Missouri
C	Kurt Mann	6'4"	290	Sr.	Nebraska
OL	Brian Daniels	6'4"	300	Sr.	Colorado
OL	Kirk Elder	6'5"	312	Jr.	Texas A&M
OL	David Ochoa	6'4"	285	Sr.	Kansas
OL	Matt Slauson	6'5"	340	So.	Nebraska

ALL-BIG 12 THIRD TEAM DEFENSE

DL	C.J. Ah You	6'4"	265	Sr.	Oklahoma
DL	Ryan McBean	6'5"	290	Sr.	Oklahoma State
DL	James McClinton	6'1"	283	Jr.	Kansas
DL	Carl Pendleton	6'5"	277	Jr.	Oklahoma
LB	Brandon Archer	6'2"	225	Sr.	Kansas State
LB	Keyunta Dawson	6'2"	260	Sr.	Texas Tech
LB	Robert Killebrew	6'2"	230	Jr.	Texas
CB	Tarell Brown	6'0"	200	Sr.	Texas
CB	C.J. Wilson	6'1"	195	Sr.	Baylor
S	Melvin Bullitt	6'1"	204	Sr.	Texas A&M
S	Jerome Kemp	5'10"	200	Sr.	Kansas

ALL-BIG 12 THIRD TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	Bruce Redden	5'9"	185	Sr.	Oklahoma State
P	Justin Brantly	6'3"	218	So.	Texas A&M
KR	Tony Temple	5'9"	190	Jr.	Missouri
PR	Reggie Smith	6'1"	190	So.	Oklahoma

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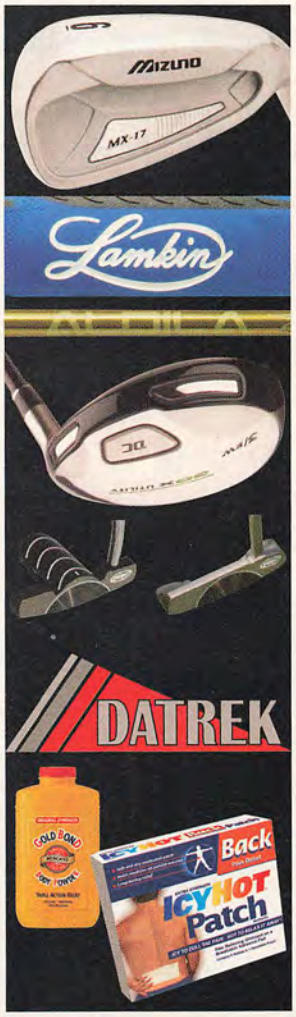

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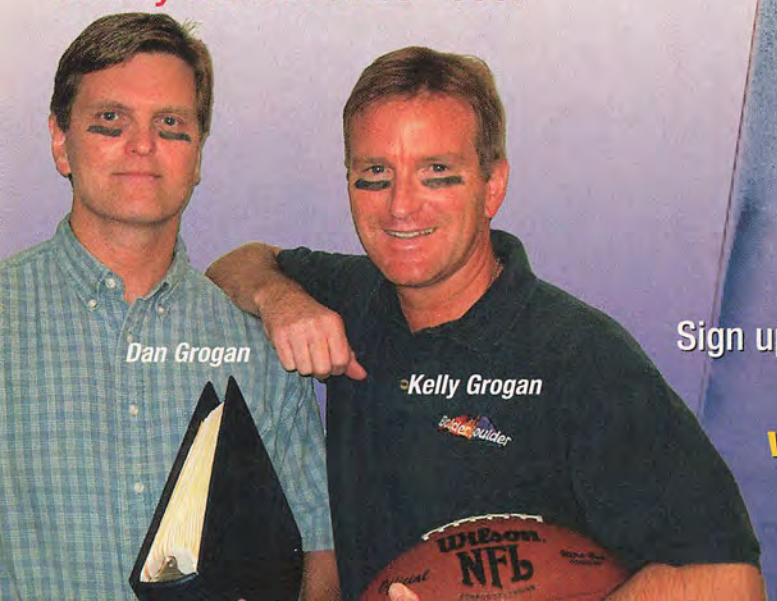

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BIG 12 FUTURE STARS

SCOUT.COM REVIEWS BIG 12 RECRUITING AND RANKS THE LEAGUE'S NEWCOMERS BASED ON THEIR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE RIGHT AWAY

The Oklahoma Sooners always have one of the top defensive lines in America, so it's hard for the young pups to get into the rotation. Then again, players like Gerald McCoy don't come around very often. McCoy comes into college with an NFL body and enough talent to not only get into the rotation, but compete for a starting spot on the Sooners defensive line. McCoy is not the only big-time prospect the Sooners signed. Tight end Jermaine Gresham and wide receiver Adron Tennell have the ability to come in and play early, serving as much-needed offensive weapons for quarterback Rhett Bomar.

The Texas Longhorns signed one of the nation's top quarterbacks in Jevan Snead. The departure of Vince Young is a big blow to the Horns offense. Coach Mack Brown and company have opened up the quarterback position. Snead enrolled in January and went through a spring battle with redshirt freshman Colt McCoy for the job. The top prospect in Texas last year was linebacker Sergio Kindle, who was also an early enrollee and got plenty of reps during spring practice and will likely see the field in 2006. Losing cornerback Michael Huff was a tough blow to the Horns defense, but incoming freshman Deon Beasley has the talent to step in right away and compete for playing time. Linebacker Jared Norton is also talented enough to see the field as a true freshman.

Texas A&M signed one of the state's top players in running back Michael Goodson. The Aggies have a solid corps of running backs returning, but Goodson is a special player who has big-play ability and will almost definitely get some reps in the Aggie offense. The weak link on the Aggie defense last year was the secondary. Jordan Pugh is lockdown corner with tremendous speed who will be a factor right away.

Look for a couple of junior college transfers to have an immediate impact in the Big 12. Nebraska signed Andre Jones, who was arguably the top junior college defensive back in the country. Texas Tech has some holes to fill on the offensive line. Ofa Mohetau has all the tools to come in right away and make a big contribution. The Baylor coaching staff was looking for wide receiver David Gettis to be a big contributor in 2005, but unfortunately Gettis was unable to qualify for the Bears. Now eligible, the speedy Gettis will come to Baylor with the possibility of starting right away.

To the dismay of many Husker fans, their prized recruited, quarterback Josh Freeman, switched his commitment from Nebraska to Kansas State at the last minute and enrolled in January. After going through spring training with the team, look for this big-time quarterback prospect to have a shot at earning the starting job this fall.

BIG 12 RECRUITING

1. TEXAS
2. OKLAHOMA
3. OKLAHOMA STATE
4. TEXAS TECH
5. TEXAS A&M
6. NEBRASKA
7. KANSAS
8. KANSAS STATE
9. COLORADO
10. BAYLOR
11. MISSOURI
12. IOWA STATE

TOP 20 BIG 12 IMPACT NEWCOMERS »

1. GERALD McCOY	DT	6'4"	305	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	OKLAHOMA
2. SERGIO KINDLE	LB	6'4"	225	DALLAS, TX	TEXAS
3. JEVAN SNEAD	QB	6'3"	215	STEPHENVILLE, TX	TEXAS
4. MICHAEL GOODSON	RB	6'0"	205	KLEIN, TX	TEXAS A&M
5. ANDRE JONES*	DB	6'0"	192	FORT WALTON BEACH, FL	NEBRASKA
6. JOSH FREEMAN	QB	6'6"	230	KANSAS CITY, MO	KANSAS STATE
7. JERMAINE GRESHAM	TE	6'7"	230	ARDMORE, OK	OKLAHOMA
8. PERRISH COX	CB	6'0"	170	WACO, TX	OKLAHOMA STATE
9. ADRON TENNELL	WR	6'5"	200	IRVING, TX	OKLAHOMA
10. DAVID GETTIS	WR	6'4"	198	LOS ANGELES, CA	BAYLOR
11. DEON BEASLEY	DB	5'10"	168	ORANGE, TX	TEXAS
12. OFA MOHETAU*	OL	6'3"	340	EULESS, TX	TEXAS TECH
13. JORDAN PUGH	DB	5'11"	180	PLANO, TX	TEXAS A&M
14. UGONNA CHINASA	DE	6'6"	230	RICHARDSON, TX	OKLAHOMA STATE
15. JARED NORTON	LB	6'3"	236	ROWLETT, TX	TEXAS
16. JEREMY MACLIN	WR	6'1"	185	KIRKWOOD, MO	MISSOURI
17. ANTHONY WEBB	DB	6'0"	175	GLENN HEIGHTS, TX	KANSAS
18. NATE SOLDER	TE	6'8"	245	BUENA VISTA, CO	COLORADO
19. LEE TIBBS	OL	6'4"	325	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	IOWA STATE
20. DANIEL JOHNSON	S	6'3"	200	HOUSTON, TX	TEXAS TECH

* JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFER

National Forecast **71** | Big 12 South Prediction **5th**

For three years, Lee Hays was like a fly on the wall, soaking in everything he could about Texas Tech's "Air Raider" offense.

"I'd drive 100 miles every day," says Hays, a student of the offense when he was the coordinator at Division II West Texas A&M in Canyon. "I know those guys got tired of seeing me coming."

But the burning question is whether Hays can make it sing at Baylor like it has under Mike Leach at Tech.

"It's second nature for those guys (at Tech)," says Hays, who was hired as the Bears' offensive coordinator in December when head coach Guy Morriss decided to adopt the offense. "They're not even thinking. It's just boom, there it is."

Baylor's hopes for ending a 12-year bowl drought could hinge on the players' learning curve.

"I want to make sure our kids know where they're going. I don't want them thinking," Hays says. "Anytime you clutter the mind, you're a half step, two steps slower — and we can't be. That takes away from the execution. If you hesitate or aren't right, it's too late. We'll be humming when those guys don't have to think as much."

After taking its most significant strides since joining the Big 12 Conference 10 years ago — a 5–6 record overall, 2–6 in conference and the first-ever Big 12 road win — Baylor's next step could be even tougher.

Especially with the growing pains of a new offense and key holes to fill on defense.

"When it's all said and done, I think we're going to be better defensively," Morriss says. "We've got to plug some holes, but those kids are growing up fast. And offensively, we've just got to execute. It all boils down to being patient, taking what they give us and be satisfied to move the sticks. The big plays will take care of themselves."

Quarterbacks For once, Shawn Bell's not looking over his shoulder.

With no Aaron Karas, Dane King or Terrance Parks back there, this is the first time that the 6'1", 219-pound senior has gone into a season as the clear-cut No. 1 quarterback.

"There isn't anybody in the conference right now that I'd want over him," Hays says. "They can have whoever they want. I'll take Shawn Bell. There might be some guys with more physical tools, but Shawn's as accurate and smart as anybody out there."

Bell was 5–4 as a starter last year, throwing for 1,964 yards, a 59.4 completion percentage and 12 touchdowns with only six interceptions. And he's a perfect fit for the offense, which relies on reading the defense and finding the "hot" receivers.

In the spring, once Parks moved to receiver, the only other scholarship quarterback was redshirt freshman Blake Szymanski. While he seems to have all the tools, Szymanski would definitely benefit from a year's apprenticeship under Bell in the new offense.

Running Backs Defenses can't afford to forget about these guys.

Baylor has so many options at the position that Hays is trying to find ways to get Paul Mosley and Brandon Whitaker on the field at the same time. That tailback combo rushed for 1,138 yards and eight touchdowns a year ago and added 42 catches out of the backfield. Mosley led the team with seven rushing touchdowns (nine total), while Whitaker averaged a healthy 4.8 yards per carry.

NUMBERS GAME

29 After finishing last in the country with only nine defensive turnovers in '04, the Bears had 29 takeaways last year — 16 interceptions and 13 fumble recoveries.

"I'll know we're rolling when I sit here and stare at the ceiling, trying to figure out how to get all these guys on the field," Hays says. "And to a certain extent, that's the issue I have with the backs. I love the fact that we've got a 1-2 punch with Mosley and Whitaker. I don't know of anybody I'd rather have in space than Whitaker."

That's what makes Whitaker so dangerous in this offense. The 5'10", 192-pound junior can turn a draw, screen or short pass in the flat into a big play in a hurry.

Mosley's more of a pure I-back, a straight-ahead runner who can grind out the tough yards. But he's also shown that he can catch passes and even block when they call on him.

The fullback is basically extinct in this offense, but Damon Dotson and Keegan Vann are still available for short-yardage duty in tight formations.

Receivers The biggest problem in the spring was finding enough warm bodies to run the routes.

"By the second day, their legs were already gone," says graduate assistant David Nichol, who came from Tech to coach the inside receivers.

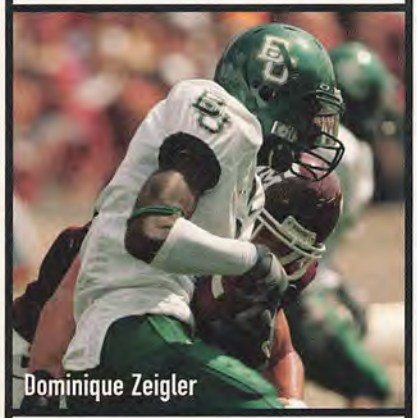
Easing that problem is the addition of five incoming freshmen, including former track All-American David Gettis from Los Angeles.

Dominique Zeigler should be one of the best go-to receivers in the league. Over the

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BEARS

After they came so close to a bowl game last year — five wins and two overtime losses — this is a critical year for the Bears. For recruiting purposes, they need to get over the hump and go bowling for the first time in 12 years. Despite losing seven starters, the defense will have to carry the team early. The secondary is solid, especially with star power at cornerback, but coordinator Bill Bradley may have to gamble and dial up more blitzes to create any kind of a pass rush. That leaves the defensive backs in man-to-man situations, but at least that's playing to their strengths. The transition to a new offense will be a bit easier with a fifth-year senior at quarterback. Quarterback Shawn Bell makes good decisions and is patient enough to take what the defense gives him without trying to force things. The biggest key for the offense is the line. With wider splits and deeper sets for pass protection, the linemen need to be clicking by the time the Bears open Sept. 2 against defending Mountain West champion TCU. Coach Guy Morriss is counting on the offensive switch improving last year's disastrous red zone results — 17 touchdowns on 46 trips inside the opponent's 20 (37 percent). If it doesn't, the Bears will likely be home for Christmas once again.



Dominique Zeigler

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	TCU	L
S.	9	Northwestern State	W
S.	16	#Washington State	L
S.	23	Army	W
S.	**30**	**Kansas State**	*
O.	7	at Colorado	L
O.	14	at Texas	L
O.	21	Kansas	L
O.	28	Texas A&M	L
N.	4	at Texas Tech	L
N.	**11**	**at Oklahoma State**	*
N.	18	Oklahoma	L
		#Seattle, WA	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Zeigler, Bell: Layne Murdoch

Baylor QB
Shawn Bell

last two seasons, he's caught 103 passes for 1,099 yards and 10 touchdowns. In the Bears' near upset at Oklahoma last October, Zeigler caught nine passes for 141 yards and one touchdown.

Trent Shelton's another reliable outside receiver, while the best inside threats are Parks, Carl Sims, Trey Payne and Queito Teasley.

Offensive Linemen When the dust settled from the offensive staff restructuring, Morriss was back on the field as the line coach.

"I've kind of missed it," he says. "It's good to be coaching again."

Returning starters Yancy Boatner and Will Blaylock swapped spots in the final week of spring, with Boatner moving to center and Blaylock to right guard.

The most intriguing and possibly the best of the bunch is 6'5", 287-pound sophomore Jason Smith, who's starting at right tackle after moving from tight end. Depth continues to be a problem, but former starter Nick Pace is backing up at tackle.

Defensive Linemen Loaded with what defensive coordinator Bill Bradley calls "ham-and-eggers," the line sorely needs to replace pass-rushing end Montez Murphy.

Senior Marcus Foreman is a solid starter at the other end, and there's good depth at the tackles with Klayton Shoals, Vincent Rhodes, M.T. Robinson, Quincy Jenkins and Corey Ford. But no one with the pass-rushing passion of Murphy, who had 3.5 sacks, 9.5 stops behind the line and six quarterback hurries.

Linebackers For the second year in a row, the Bears are trying to replace senior starters at both linebacker spots.

Nick Moore, Joe Pawelek, Antonio Jones, Ben Hixson and junior college transfer Paul Tolbert are all younger, but they bring the kind of speed and athleticism that Bradley and Morriss love. This group should improve as the season progresses.

Defensive Backs Senior corner C.J. Wilson had more interceptions last year (five) than the whole team had the year before (four). If cornerback Braelon Davis comes back from academic hiatus, Wilson could rotate to free safety or the rover position left vacant by Willie Andrews. Anthony Arline is a ball hawk at the other corner, while senior Maurice Linguist, who started the first four games of the 2005 season, is being pushed by freshman Jeremy Williams at outside safety.

Specialists Punter Daniel Sepulveda, who was third in the country last season with a 46.2-yard average, had reconstructive surgery to repair a torn ACL in his right knee and is expected to return by October. Brook Black, a sophomore, will handle the punting duties until Sepulveda returns.

Kicker Ryan Havens booted 16 field goals and scored 70 points, the third-most in school history. He was perfect (7-of-7) from 29 yards and in but connected on only 7-of-14 from 30 yards and beyond. That must improve this season.

Trent Shelton

RISING STAR

Sophomore Jason Smith started seven games at tight end last year, finishing with six catches for 70 yards and a touchdown. He has since moved to the offensive line, and the 6'5", 287-pounder looks more at home and should have a huge impact as the starting right tackle in the fall.

KEY BEARS

Shawn Bell, QB
Heady player is a good fit for new offense.

Dominique Zeigler, WR
Should put up huge numbers as the No. 1 target.

Brandon Whitaker, RB
Looks a lot like former Texas Tech runner Taurean Henderson.

Daniel Sepulveda, P
Tore his ACL in the spring; a midseason return would be a huge boost.

C.J. Wilson, CB
The Bears' best cover corner could switch to safety.

KEY LOSSES

Montez Murphy, DE
Best pass-rusher will be missed.

Willie Andrews, S/KR
Set all of school records for kick and punt returns.

Colin Allred, LB
Vocal leader who also led the team with 5.5 sacks.

Shaun Rochon, WR/KR
Second-leading receiver and All-Big 12 returner.

Mark Nelson
Special teams coach left for job at Tulsa.

Layne Murdoch

SCOUTING THE BEARS

Opposing coaches size up Baylor: "You can't count on beating Baylor anymore. They only finished 5–6 last season, but they scared the Dickens out of some people. Guy Morriss really knows what he's doing and has his kids playing hard. They had to get better on offense and score some points, so I'm not surprised he's going to a spread offense. I don't know if he has the personnel yet to run it like he wants to, but it should help them punch it in the end zone a little bit more....Shawn Bell is a pretty good quarterback. He struggled at times last season, and he'll have to be the trigger man in that offense. He's going to have to get rid of the football more quickly and cut down on his mistakes....They've got some weapons on the perimeter — Dominique Zeigler and Trent Shelton are both good receivers....They lost a lot of good players on defense, and they'll have to replace both safeties and two linebackers. They still lack some size and defense and you can really run right at them."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**1**	**Trent Shelton**	**Sr.**
WR	**7**	**Dominique Zeigler**	**Sr.**
IR	5	Terrance Parks	Jr.
LT	67	Travis Farst	Sr.
LG	70	Chad Smith	Jr.
C	**76**	**Yancy Boatner**	**Sr.**
RG	**50**	**Will Blaylock**	**Sr.**
RT	**72**	**Jason Smith**	**So.**
IR	9	Trey Payne	So.
QB	**11**	**Shawn Bell**	**Sr.**
RB	20	Brandon Whitaker	Jr.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	84	David Gettis	Fr.
WR	83	Mikail Baker	So.
IR	24	Carl Sims	So.
LT	61	Matt Lott	Sr.
LG	74	Thad Boatner	Fr.
C	60	Sam Sledge	Fr.
RG	71	Dan Gay	So.
RT	**68**	**Nick Pace**	**Jr.**
IR	21	Queito Teasley	So.
QB	14	Blake Szymanski	Fr.
RB	**17**	**Paul Mosley**	**Sr.**

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (4)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**90**	**Marcus Foreman**	**Sr.**
DT	96	Klayton Shoals	Sr.
DT	**99**	**M.T. Robinson**	**Sr.**
DE	93	Julian Hill	Sr.
MLB	44	Nick Moore	Jr.
WLB	8	Antonio Jones	Fr.
CB	**6**	**Anthony Arline**	**Sr.**
CB	**3**	**C.J. Wilson**	**Sr.**
OS	15	Maurice Linguist	Sr.
ROV	9	Brandon Stiggers	Jr.
FS	1	Dwain Crawford	So.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	87	Jason Lamb	Fr.
DT	91	Vincent Rhodes	So.
DT	98	Quincy Jenkins	Sr.
DE	57	Geoff Nelson	Jr.
MLB	46	Joe Pawelek	Fr.
WLB	35	Ben Hixson	So.
CB	36	James Todd	Sr.
CB	5	Braelon Davis	Jr.
OS	4	Jeremy Williams	Fr.
ROV	11	Marlon Price	So.
FS	21	Jordan Lake	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	43	Ryan Havens	Sr.
P	3	Brook Black	So.
KR	24	Carl Sims	So.
PR	24	Carl Sims	So.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 BAYLOR ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
11	Bell, Shawn	QB	6'1"	219	Sr.	China Spring, TX
8	Dane, Chandler	QB	6'0"	206	Fr.	Dallas, TX
10	Lovvorn, Jason	QB	5'11"	174	So.	Dallas, TX
14	Szymanski, Blake	QB	6'4"	198	Fr.	Wichita Falls, TX

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
47	Dotson, Damon	FB	5'9"	211	Sr.	Houston, TX
25	Jones, Jacoby	RB	5'11"	219	So.	Bangs, TX
17	Mosley, Paul	RB	6'3"	235	Sr.	Austin, TX
28	Price, Mario	RB	5'10"	200	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
32	Smith, Cordney	RB	6'0"	225	Fr.	Duncanville, TX
40	Vann, Keegan	FB	6'0"	242	Jr.	Katy, TX
2	Whitaker, Brandon	RB	5'10"	192	Jr.	Edmond, OK

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
80	Adams, Jordan	TE	6'4"	248	Jr.	Arlington, TX
82	Akers, Justin	TE	6'5"	236	Fr.	Deer Park, TX
83	Baker, Mikail	WR	6'0"	191	So.	Dallas, TX
6	Bennett, Joe	WR	5'7"	167	So.	Arlington, TX
29	Heard, Andrew	WR	5'11"	184	Sr.	Cuero, TX
81	Miller, Mike	TE	6'3"	243	Jr.	Lake Charles, LA
39	Munn, Craig	WR	6'0"	189	Sr.	Waco, TX
5	Parks, Terrance	IR	6'4"	243	Jr.	Lufkin, TX
9	Payne, Trey	WR	5'9"	182	So.	La Marque, TX
45	Ritchey, Clay	TE	6'2"	223	So.	San Antonio, TX
1	Shelton, Trent	WR	6'2"	207	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
24	Sims, Carl	WR	5'10"	168	So.	Waco, TX
26	Teasley, Queito	WR	6'1"	175	So.	Katy, TX
84	Thompson, Joshua	TE	6'1"	245	Jr.	Dallas, TX
10	White, Thomas	WR	6'2"	204	So.	Plano, TX
7	Zeigler, Dominique	WR	6'3"	180	Sr.	Killeen, TX

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
50	Blaylock, Will	G	6'2"	308	Sr.	Tyler, TX
74	Boatner, Thad	G	6'7"	273	Fr.	Hamilton, TX
76	Boatner, Yancy	C	6'4"	327	Sr.	Hamilton, TX
67	Farst, Travis	T	6'7"	327	Sr.	Cedar Park, TX
71	Gay, Dan	G	6'5"	314	So.	Lafayette, LA
69	Hasoon, Ricky	C	6'2"	280	Jr.	Katy, TX
75	Hearvey, Jordan	T	6'4"	300	Fr.	Richardson, TX
61	Lott, Matt	T	6'5"	318	Sr.	Wiggins, MS
68	Pace, Nick	T	6'3"	289	Jr.	Katy, TX
60	Sledge, Sam	C	6'2"	266	Fr.	Midland, TX
70	Smith, Chad	G	6'6"	299	Jr.	Allen, TX
72	Smith, Jason	T	6'5"	287	So.	Dallas, TX
73	Tanner, Ted	T	6'3"	280	Jr.	Waco, TX

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
97	Bryant, Trey	DT	6'3"	318	Fr.	Richardson, TX
58	Carey, Chris	DE	6'3"	253	Fr.	New Braunfels, TX
54	Ford, Corey	DT	6'3"	304	Sr.	Dallas, TX
90	Foreman, Marcus	DE	6'2"	248	Sr.	Hewitt, TX
51	Geib, Adam	DE	6'5"	243	So.	Waco, TX
49	Hardeman, Jameon	DE	6'1"	248	Fr.	Dallas, TX
93	Hill, Julian	DE	6'3"	254	Sr.	Katy, TX
78	Horn, Anderson	DT	6'5"	268	Sr.	Deer Park, TX
98	Jenkins, Quincy	DT	6'1"	286	Sr.	Trinidad, TX
87	Lamb, Jason	DE	6'6"	252	Fr.	Richardson, TX
89	McDonald, LeQuantum	DE	6'3"	281	Fr.	Waco, TX
57	Nelson, Geoff	DE	6'2"	252	Jr.	Cedar Hill, TX

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
25	Osinde, Justin	DE	6'3"	267	So.	Arlington, TX
92	Redfearn, Connor	DT	6'2"	290	Jr.	Mt. Pleasant, TX
91	Rhodes, Vincent	DT	6'2"	310	So.	Denison, TX
99	Robinson, M.T.	DT	6'1"	305	Sr.	Newport News, VA
96	Shoals, Klayton	DT	6'3"	281	Sr.	Texarkana, TX
56	Slaughter, Michael	DE	6'6"	253	Jr.	Lompoc, CA
71	Swift, Courtney	DT	6'2"	259	Fr.	Richardson, TX
95	Taylor, Damien	DE	6'3"	271	Fr.	Waco, TX
75	Walters, Raylon	DE	6'5"	221	Fr.	Houston, TX

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
60	Bannister, Justin	LB	6'2"	248	Fr.	Austin, TX
48	Eaton, Travis	LB	6'2"	193	Sr.	New Braunfels, TX
52	Findley, Ty	LB	6'0"	218	So.	Marshall, TX
35	Hixson, Ben	LB	6'2"	236	So.	Southlake, TX
55	Howard, Paul	LB	6'2"	250	Sr.	Denison, TX
8	Jones, Antonio	LB	6'3"	229	Fr.	Dallas, TX
47	Lopez, Daniel	LB	5'11"	221	Jr.	Brownsville, TX
22	Mead, Marcus	LB	6'2"	220	So.	Alva, OK
44	Moore, Nick	LB	6'1"	227	Jr.	Arlington, TX
46	Pawelek, Joe	LB	6'2"	225	Fr.	Spring Branch, TX
50	Shalala, Sam	LB	6'1"	218	So.	Sugar Land, TX
16	Tolbert, Paul	LB	6'1"	220	Jr.	Decatur, MS

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
6	Arline, Anthony	CB	6'2"	194	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
14	Bays, Bryan	OS	5'9"	182	Sr.	Dallas, TX
2	Bell, Josh	CB	6'0"	165	Jr.	Dallas, TX
1	Crawford, Dwain	FS	6'0"	202	So.	Giddings, TX
10	Cuba, Michael	Rov	6'2"	199	Jr.	Taylor, TX
5	Davis, Braelon	CB	5'11"	170	Jr.	Dallas, TX
13	Farley, Nate	FS	6'2"	193	So.	Denison, TX
28	Gindratt, Corey	Rov	6'0"	173	Fr.	Amarillo, TX
23	Green, Justin	CB	5'8"	157	Fr.	Converse, TX
31	Hoefer, Bennett	FS	5'10"	173	Jr.	Woodway, TX
30	James, Roman	FS	6'1"	174	Fr.	Sharon, MA
23	Jenkins, Desmond	FS	5'10"	198	So.	Trinidad, TX
42	Jones, Zach	OS	5'11"	204	Jr.	Pflugerville, TX
21	Lake, Jordan	FS	6'2"	203	Fr.	Houston, TX
12	LaMar, Jake	Rov	6'0"	187	So.	Bedford, TX
15	Linguist, Maurice	OS	5'10"	207	Sr.	Mesquite, TX
17	Nurudeen, Latif	CB	6'1"	191	So.	Friendswood, TX
7	Okpara, Curtis	CB	6'0"	178	So.	Missouri City, TX
33	Piorkowski, Jon	OS	6'3"	219	So.	Lake St. Louis, MO
11	Price, Marlon	Rov	6'2"	180	So.	Dallas, TX
26	Reaux, Jason	FS	6'3"	227	Jr.	Thrall, TX
24	Sneed, Avery	CB	5'9"	155	Sr.	El Paso, TX
9	Stiggers, Brandon	Rov	6'0"	188	Jr.	Houston, TX
36	Todd, James	CB	6'0"	184	Sr.	Marshall, TX
20	Widemon, Alton	CB	5'11"	174	Jr.	Lindale, TX
4	Williams, Jeremy	OS	5'10"	206	Fr.	Dallas, TX
3	Wilson, C.J.	CB	6'1"	195	Sr.	Terrell, TX

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
20	Allen, Caleb	K	6'0"	175	So.	Arlington, TX
3	Black, Brook	P	6'2"	179	So.	Houston, TX
43	Havens, Ryan	K	5'10"	197	Sr.	Odessa, TX
52	Myatt, Nick	LS	6'2"	204	Sr.	Waco, TX
37	Sepulveda, Daniel	P	6'3"	227	Sr.	Dallas, TX
62	Weeks, Jonathan	LS	5'10"	256	Jr.	Glendale, AZ

Head Coach: Guy Morriss • Record at School: 11–23 (3 years) • Career Record: 20–37 (6 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Lee Hays • Defensive Coordinator: Bill Bradley • Waco, Texas • Floyd Casey Stadium (50,000)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Shawn Bell	320	190	1,964	12	6
Terrance Parks	71	32	324	1	6

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Paul Mosley	180	657	3.7	7
Brandon Whitaker	101	481	4.8	1
Jacoby Jones	12	57	4.8	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Dominique Zeigler	48	563	11.7	5
Shaun Rochon	44	443	10.1	2
Trent Shelton	39	452	11.6	1
Brandon Whitaker	30	160	5.3	0

Kicking: **Ryan Havens, 16-23 FGs, 22-24 XPs, 70 points**
Tackles: Maurice Lane, 84; Jamaal Harper, 73
Sacks: Colin Allred, 5.5
Interceptions: **C.J. Wilson, 5**

Returning Players in Bold

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Pregame prayer is covered It's not unheard-of to have a graduate student on the football field. But Andrew Heard is a special case. After graduating from Texas Tech with a degree in communications, he enrolled in Baylor's Truett Seminary in the fall of 2004 and then walked on as a receiver last fall. "I was praying about what God wanted me to do ministry-wise and decided I'd go play football again," says Heard, who has one year of eligibility remaining. "I hadn't planned on coming here to play. I didn't think I would ever play again."

Let's play two Guy Morriss maintains an open-door policy on allowing his football players to compete in other sports. Sophomore receiver Carl Sims is a reserve guard for the basketball team, linebacker Joe Pawelek redshirted last season as a catcher for the baseball team, and inside receiver Queito Teasley is one of the top long jumpers in the Big 12.

Keeping it in the family First-year quarterbacks coach Wes Phillips is the son of San Diego Chargers defensive coordinator Wade Phillips and the grandson of former Houston Oilers and New Orleans Saints head coach Bum Phillips. "It's not so much a pressure to live up to them," says the 27-year-old Phillips. "I just don't want to be the guy that brings the name down. They've definitely set the standard that I'd like to get to."

Gary Joe comes home Former all-Southwest Conference linebacker Gary Joe Kinne (1986-89) returned in January as Baylor's linebackers coach. Kinne was 28–8 in three years at Canton High School, leading the Eagles to the Class 3A state quarterfinals in 2005. But he made national headlines last April when he was shot by an angry parent at the Canton fieldhouse. While Kinne lost 80 percent of his liver and dropped from 280 pounds to 195, Jeffrey Doyal Robertson was convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 5–6 (2–6 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	at SMU	W	28–23	29,538
Sept. 10	Samford	W	48–14	36,575
Sept. 17	at Army	W	20–10	31,357
Oct. 1	at Texas A&M	L	(ot) 13–16	79,280
Oct. 8	at Iowa State	W	23–13	45,992
Oct. 15	Nebraska	L	14–23	40,857
Oct. 22	at Oklahoma	L	(2ot) 30–37	83,456
Oct. 29	Texas Tech	L	0–28	43,525
Nov. 5	Texas	L	0–62	44,783
Nov. 12	at Missouri	L	16–31	46,425
Nov. 19	Oklahoma State	W	44–34	28,753

Layne Murdoch

M.T. Robinson

2006 RECRUITING

Not that the system recruits itself, but Baylor certainly opened some new doors when it adopted Texas Tech's "Air Raider" offense.

"I'm excited about some of the quarterbacks and wide receivers that we're competing for right now," offensive coordinator Lee Hays said in the spring. "If we're an (I-formation) team, those kids aren't talking to me."

The Bears parlayed the increased interest into a 2006 recruiting class that included four quarterbacks and five receivers.

"As soon as we made that announcement and people realized what the system we were talking about was, the phone started ringing with quarterbacks and receivers," head coach Guy Morriss says.

Pflugerville's Tyler Beatty is the traditional pocket passer, while Jeremy Sanders of Marlin, Anthony Norice of Dallas Skyline and Brad Taylor of Madisonville are more in the Vince Young mold of athletic, run/pass threats.

Without a doubt, the most intriguing prospect at receiver is former track All-American David Gettis from Los Angeles. The state's premier quarter-miler in '05, the 6'4", 198-pound wide receiver had to sit out last year before being cleared academically by the NCAA Clearinghouse in April.

Baylor's lack of depth at receiver will also give Garfield Hicks, Ernest Smith, Ben Randle and Justin Fenty a chance to contribute early.

On defense, the Bears went for immediate impact by signing linebacker Paul Tolbert, outside safeties Jwaun Ward and Brandon Stiggers and tackle Connor Redfearn from the junior college ranks.

"We feel good that we've got some good, young guys in place and coming up," Morriss says, "but some of them haven't played a down of (college) football yet. So we thought we might be better served to get somebody that's at least played some form of college football, a mature kid."

Tim Atchison S 6'2" 180 Copperas Cove, TX
Named District 13 Class 5A Defensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Tyler Beatty QB 6'3" 195 Pflugerville, TX
Threw for 1,688 yards, 13 TDs and five INTs as a senior.

Antareis Bryan CB 6'1" 175 Dallas, TX
Recorded 45 tackles and three INTs for District champions as a senior.

Chris Buford DE 6'4" 255 Arlington, TX
Recorded 50 tackles and 12 sacks in only five games as a senior.

Greg Carlson LB 6'3" 200 Spring, TX
Named District 18 Class 4A Defensive MVP in 2005.

Dominique Criss CB 5'9" 175 Arlington, TX
Ranked No. 60 cornerback in the nation by Rivals.com.

Justin Fenty WR 5'10" 160 Denton, TX
Recorded 84 receptions for 1,397 yards and 17 TDs as a junior.

Jay Finley RB 5'11" 180 Corsicana, TX
Rushed for 1,404 yards and 12 TDs; named first-team all-district in '05.

David Gettis WR 6'4" 198 Los Angeles, CA
Originally signed with Baylor in '04. Caught 39-yard TD in '05 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Won L.A. City 400-meter titles in track in '04 and '05.

Dylan Hagens OL 6'7" 260 Shiner, TX
Named first-team Class A All-State by The AP as a senior.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Defensive Backs	7	Texas	22
Wide Receivers	5	Massachusetts	1
Offensive Linemen	4	Mississippi	2
Quarterbacks	4	California	1
Defensive Linemen	3	Florida	1
Linebackers	3	Louisiana	1
Running Backs	2		

Jameon Hardeman DE 6'1" 240 Dallas, TX
Originally signed with Arizona State. Played in Coca-Cola All-Star Game.

Garfield Hicks WR 6'2" 172 Waco, TX
Named District 16 Class 4A Offensive MVP and second-team all-state by TSWA. Had 77 catches for 1,306 yards and 14 TDs as a senior.

Roman James S 6'1" 180 Sharon, MA
Originally signed with Baylor in '04. Recorded 18 INTs in HS career. Father, Roland, played for the NFL's New England Patriots ('80-'90).

Adrian Johnson OL 6'2" 280 Tyler, TX
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by the TSWA as a senior.

SPOTLIGHT ON...ERNEST SMITH

Wide Receiver • 6'3" • 200 • New Orleans, LA

Baylor can only hope that wide receiver Ernest Smith will have the same impact with the Bears that he did in his short time in Tyler, Texas.

A New Orleans native who was uprooted by Hurricane Katrina, Smith helped the downtrodden John Tyler High School football program to a playoff berth and an 8–3 finish after the Lions won only three games in the previous two seasons combined. The 6'3", 200-pound receiver transferred back to Edna Karr Magnate School in New Orleans during the Christmas break after making 21 catches for 283 yards and three touchdowns in only six games with the Lions.

After missing most of his junior season with an injury and the first five games last year when he transferred, Smith was something of an unknown in recruiting. But he had an offer from UAB and interest from Ole Miss and Michigan State. With Baylor switching to a version of Texas Tech's "Air Raider" offense and deploying more receivers, Smith's timing might be perfect. "I heard they were low on receivers," he says. "They told me I have a chance to play as a freshman, and hopefully I'll be the No. 1 target in the next couple of years."

Jeremy Michel OL 6'5" 280 Bradenton, FL
Named second-team Class 5A All-State in '05. Also a long snapper.

Chris Mitchell LB 6'3" 260 Lancaster, TX
Recorded 112 tackles, seven sacks and three forced fumbles as a senior.

Anthony Norice QB 6'1" 175 Dallas, TX
Threw for 1,311 yards, 13 TDs and nine INTs as a senior at Skyline HS.

Andre Pierce RB 5'10" 185 Mesquite, TX
Rushed for 2,301 yards and 24 TDs in '05. Named District 11 Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year by the Dallas Morning News as a senior.

Reid Prince OL 6'4" 255 Frisco, TX
Allowed only one sack during final two seasons at Highland Park HS.

Ben Randle WR 6'5" 200 Plano, TX
Father, Ervin, played football at Baylor and in the NFL ('81-'92).

Connor Redfearn DT 6'2" 280 Mt. Pleasant, TX
Named honorable mention all-conference at Santa Monica (Calif.) CC.

Calvin Rubles CB 6'3" 186 Dallas, TX
Recorded 44 tackles, 11 pass deflections and six INTs as a senior.

Jeremy Sanders QB 6'2" 210 Marlin, TX
Threw for 2,540 yards, 27 TDs and only one INT; rushed for 882 yards and 16 TDs as a senior. Named District 18 Class 3A Offensive MVP in '05.

Brandon Stiggers S 6'0" 185 Houston, TX
Had nine forced fumbles and three INTs at Compton (Calif.) CC in '05.

Brad Taylor QB 6'3" 210 Madisonville, TX
Had 1,010 passing yards and nine TDs; eight rushing TDs in '05.

Paul Tolbert LB 6'1" 230 Decatur, MS
Recorded 76 tackles in seven games at East Central (Miss.) CC in '05.

Jwaun Ward S 6'1" 208 Perkinston, MS
Played for UT-Chattanooga in '03 and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in '05.

National Forecast 1 | Big 12 South Prediction 1st

Without a doubt, Oklahoma fell hard from its lofty perch last season. But here's what you might have missed after the Sooners lost two of their first three games: They won seven of their last nine games — and Oklahoma fans insist it was really eight of nine, considering a controversial finish at Texas Tech.

And here's what you won't be able to miss this season: The growing pains of 2005 should result in a return to the national spotlight. Oklahoma's roster boasts a talented nucleus led by all-everything tailback Adrian Peterson. And all that talent is bristling with motivation. "I think our future is incredibly bright," coach Bob Stoops says.

The defense returns seven starters and appears ready to uphold the Sooners' tradition of stinginess. Dogged by injury last year, Peterson is healthy. And led by quarterback Rhett Bomar, some young but talented offensive stars have grown up. They'll benefit from an infusion of diversity in schemes from new coordinator Kevin Wilson, who was promoted when Chuck Long became San Diego State's head coach.

It all adds up to this: If offensive line questions can be answered, the Sooners could zoom right back to prominence. Oklahoma should be as good as ever. Or better.

Quarterbacks There's no controversy this year, and no question in coaches' minds that Bomar is the quarterback who is about to emerge as a star. Brash, headstrong and confident — perhaps cocky is the best description — Bomar initially struggled to live up to the hype. But in the second half of the season, he grew comfortable and grew into a playmaker. In the last five games, he threw for 1,008 yards with six touchdowns and three interceptions and was named the Holiday Bowl's offensive MVP.

Bomar also brings fleet feet. Last year, though, coaches sometimes cringed when Bomar bolted from the pocket and took on a linebacker head-on. With seasoning, he should be one of the Big 12's best.

With Paul Thompson now moved to receiver, there isn't much behind Bomar. Joey Halzle, a mid-term junior college transfer, will serve as Bomar's backup, but he was inconsistent during the spring. Incoming freshman Sam Bradford will immediately occupy the third spot on the depth chart.

Running Backs Repeat this phrase: Adrian Peterson is healthy. Peterson's sophomore season wasn't much like that 2004 debut. But it wasn't exactly a slump. He missed all or part of four games because of a severe ankle injury and still rushed for more than 1,000 yards.

After an offseason of rest and a spring practice with limited contact, Peterson appeared ready to build on that '04 season. Most Oklahoma insiders believe 2006 will be Peterson's last go-around in college football. He'll try to showcase his considerable package for pro scouts during the season.

Peterson should be joined in the backfield by Allen Patrick, a converted defensive back who played well in Peterson's absence last season. True freshman DeMarco Murray, smaller but perhaps quicker than Peterson and Patrick, is expected to contribute.

OU's offensive scheme has often featured a fullback, but the future of the position depends in part upon the emergence of either Matt Clapp or Dane Zaslaw.

NUMBERS GAME

1,086 Adrian Peterson needs 1,086 rushing yards to set Oklahoma's all-time rushing record (4,118 by Billy Sims from 1975-79). Peterson has averaged 1,516 yards in two seasons, and despite missing most of four games in 2005, had 1,108.

Receivers Another strength forged through '05's struggles is the receiving corps. Malcolm Kelly, Manuel Johnson and Juaquin Iglesias emerged as playmakers as true freshmen.

Kelly, a tall, smooth speedster, quickly became Bomar's favorite target, leading the team in catches (33) and yards (471) while showing a knack for big plays. Iglesias, whose overtime catch beat Baylor, and Johnson, who hauled in a 55-yarder for a TD against Oklahoma State, showed enough promise that former receivers coach Darrell Wyatt favorably compared the trio to their superstar predecessors, including Mark Clayton.

Since moving from quarterback, the tall, athletic Thompson has shown a knack for making tough catches. Quentin Chaney, a 6'6" specimen, and Eric Huggins, who redshirted last season, will also battle for playing time in a crowded rotation.

Tight end Joe Jon Finley is more of a receiving threat than a blocker. Brody Eldridge, who moved over from defense, is more of a blocker than receiver. It's not clear how often Oklahoma will use the tight end.

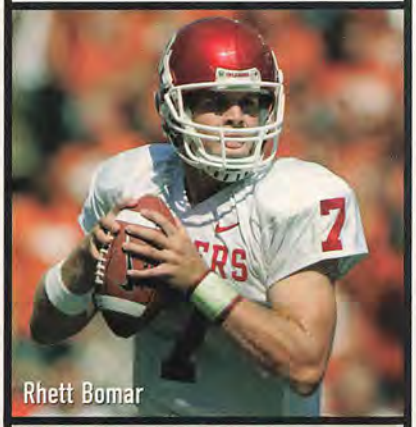
Offensive Linemen Four starters played their last game in the Holiday Bowl, and because of injuries and attrition, Oklahoma spent the spring with seven available linemen. Much remains to be settled.

Tackle Chris Messner, the only returning starter, returns to lead a unit that must quickly mesh. The good news was the play of youngsters George "Duke" Robinson, whose weight loss allowed him to fit in at guard,

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE SOONERS

The 2005 season was painful for Bob Stoops' troops. The good news for Oklahoma was that those turned out to be growing pains. The Sooners finished by winning six of their last seven. A 17–14 win over No. 6 Oregon in the Holiday Bowl served notice that Oklahoma might be ready to return to the national spotlight. For one thing, Adrian Peterson is healthy and appears primed to make a run at the Heisman Trophy. He'll be supported by Rhett Bomar, who could be an emerging star at quarterback, and a fleet of talented wide receivers. If the offensive line jells, the Sooners should have little trouble scoring, and they might look a lot different under new offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson, anyway. Oklahoma's defense wasn't half-bad in 2005, ranking 13th in total defense (306.7 yards allowed). Seven starters return, including potential All-America linebacker Rufus Alexander and emerging star Reggie Smith (who moved from safety to cornerback and got better). Up front, four defensive ends will battle for playing time. All have shown they can get to the quarterback. Punter could be a problem, though. The spring dismissal from the team of Cody Freeby left coaches scouring the countryside for a punter.

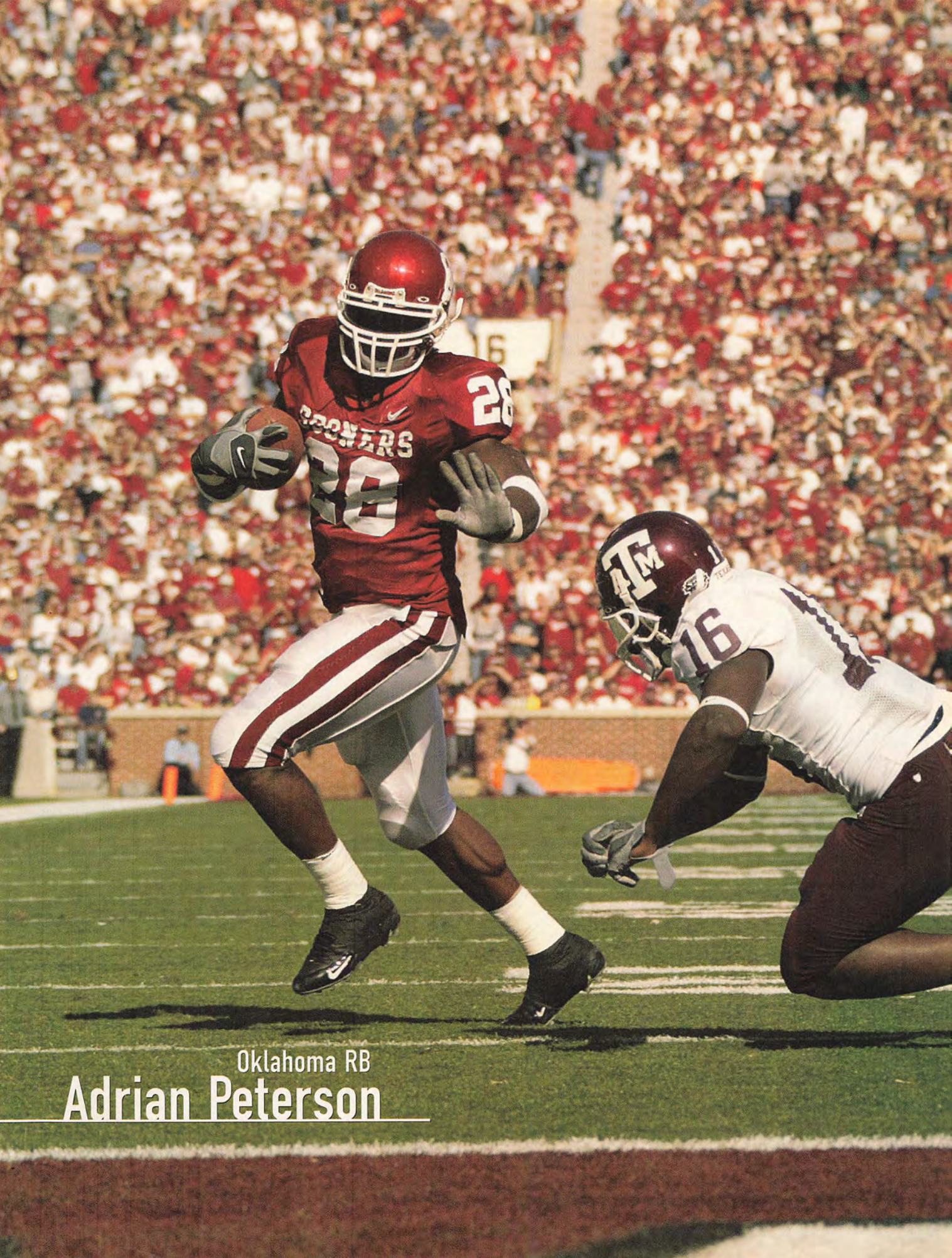

Rhett Bomar

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	UAB	W
S.	9	Washington	W
S.	16	at Oregon	W
S.	23	Middle Tennessee	W
O.	**7**	**#Texas**	*
O.	14	Iowa State	W
O.	21	Colorado	W
O.	28	at Missouri	W
N.	4	at Texas A&M	W
N.	11	Texas Tech	W
N.	18	at Baylor	W
N.	25	at Oklahoma State	W
		#Dallas, TX	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Peterson: Layne Murdoch; Bomar: Larry Smith



Oklahoma RB

Adrian Peterson

and Branndon Braxton, who should anchor the other tackle position. Junior college transfer Brandon Walker could have an impact, too.

Jon Cooper, who suffered a severely broken leg last season, is the odds-on favorite at center, but Ben Barresi could challenge.

Brian Simmons, who moved from the defensive line, and junior-college transfer Sherrone Moore will battle at guard.

Defensive Linemen The definition of a good problem: OU returns its starting defensive ends, and two standouts who missed last season because of injury will also return. Calvin Thibodeaux (who led the Sooners in sacks) and C.J. Ah You (the Big 12's Defensive Newcomer of the Year) started last year. But they'll be challenged by Larry Birdine, who sat out 2005 with a torn biceps. John Williams (knee) also returns.

Dusty Dvoracek no longer anchors the interior, but there's no lack of talent. Carl Pendleton returns for his third year as a starter. Cory Bennett, DeMarcus Granger and Steven Coleman showed signs in the spring that they would battle to start or play. True freshman Gerald McCoy, who was a National Player of the Year, could also contribute immediately.

Linebackers Starters return at two of three positions, highlighted by senior Rufus Alexander. Alexander roams the weak-side linebacker spot that has been the launching pad for Sooner stars like Rocky Calmus and Teddy Lehman. Now a senior, Alexander, who led the team in tackles last year, should be a top contender for the Butkus Award won by those former standouts.

Zach Latimer returns at middle linebacker after a solid season a year ago. Demarrio Pleasant is the likely starter at strong-side linebacker as the replacement for Clint Ingram. Those are tough shoes to fill, as Ingram seemed to have a knack for finding the football. The Sooners took a hit when Ryan Reynolds, an emerging standout who was battling Pleasant for the strong-side spot, suffered a severe knee injury in late April.

Defensive Backs Reggie Smith started at safety as a true freshman and played well. But his move to cornerback in the spring might be the key that turns the secondary into a smothering group. With second-year starter D.J. Wolfe on the other corner, the Sooners have two lock-down cover guys.

Darien Williams appears set to start at free safety. Jason Carter, a seasoned veteran, will most likely grab Smith's old job at strong safety. The Sooners' secondary, a concern in recent years, could be a strength.

Specialists Oklahoma entered the summer with a troubling situation at punter. Cody Freeby, the punter in '05, was dismissed from the team last spring. Mike Knall, who backed up Freeby, was inconsistent during spring practice, and coaches were scouring the countryside looking for guys with a strong leg. Placekicker Garrett Hartley is also expected to try punting. How that works out isn't certain. But Hartley had a solid season on placements.

RISING STAR

When George "Duke" Robinson arrived at Oklahoma last summer, his athletic ability was easy to see. The problem was, Robinson was easy to see, period. The 6'5" offensive lineman weighed in at 371 — too heavy to help much as a freshman, even when the Sooners needed it. Putting down the cheeseburgers and pizza, Robinson dropped 43 pounds and grabbed a starting position at guard.

SCOUTING THE SOONERS

Opposing coaches size up Oklahoma: "I was surprised as anybody at how much they struggled last season. But the bottom line is they weren't very good. Bobby Stoops isn't going to stay down for long, and I expect them to bounce right back and be in the hunt....A lot of their problems on offense can be attributed to playing a young quarterback, but Rhett Bomar is a big-time player. I thought he was a little more comfortable at the end of the year and cut down on some of his mistakes. (Adrian) Peterson was never really healthy. He didn't forget how to run. They've got to get Bomar under the center, so Peterson can line up a little bit deeper in the backfield. I don't think Peterson was comfortable running some of the stretch plays they tried last season. They'll have a young offensive line, but the one they had last year wasn't that consistent.... They should have one of the best defenses in the league. C.J. Ah You can really disrupt things on the edge and they get back Larry Birdine. Rufus Alexander is a sideline-to-sideline guy who can blitz and cover receivers. (Cornerback) Reggie Smith has a chance to really be a special player."

C.J. Ah You

KEY SOONERS

Adrian Peterson, TB
If healthy, he's primed for a run at the Heisman Trophy.

Rufus Alexander, LB
Hard-hitting and fast, he fits the mold of the Sooners' previous linebacking stars.

Rhett Bomar, QB
Grew up a bunch last year and might be about to emerge as a star.

Reggie Smith, CB
Playmaker looks like a lock-down corner.

Malcolm Kelly, WR
Smooth, fast and tall, he leads an explosive receiving corps.

KEY LOSSES

Davin Joseph, OL
Played out of position at tackle but was the Sooners' best lineman.

Dusty Dvoracek, DT
Nonstop motor forced opponents to double-team him.

Clint Ingram, LB
This "ball magnet" turned strongside linebacker into a force.

J.D. Runnels, FB
Cleared the way for Adrian Peterson.

Travis Wilson, WR
When healthy, Wilson was a potent weapon — especially in clutch situations.

Larry Smith

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (4)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**2**	**Malcolm Kelly**	**So.**
WR	12	Paul Thompson	Sr.
WR	9	Juaquin Iglesias	So.
LT	**79**	**Chris Messner**	**Sr.**
LG	72	George Robinson	So.
C	50	Jon Cooper	So.
RG	74	Brian Simmons	Fr.
RT	76	Branndon Braxton	So.
TE	85	Joe Jon Finley	Jr.
QB	**7**	**Rhett Bomar**	**So.**
TB	**28**	**Adrian Peterson**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	19	Quentin Chaney	So.
WR	81	Fred Strong	So.
WR	6	Manuel Johnson	So.
LT	72	George Robinson	So.
LG	65	Ben Barresi	So.
C	63	J.D. Quinn	So.
RG	77	Sherrone Moore	Jr.
RT		Brandon Walker	So.
TE	83	Brody Eldridge	Fr.
QB	11	Joey Halzle	So.
TB	23	Allen Patrick	Jr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**99**	**C.J. Ah You**	**Sr.**
DT	**68**	**Carl Pendleton**	**Jr.**
DT	97	Cory Bennett	So.
DE	**58**	**Calvin Thibodeaux**	**Sr.**
SLB	51	Demarrio Pleasant	Jr.
MLB	**46**	**Zach Latimer**	**Sr.**
WLB	**42**	**Rufus Alexander**	**Sr.**
CB	**1**	**Reggie Smith**	**So.**
CB	**25**	**D.J. Wolfe**	**Jr.**
SS	6	Jason Carter	Sr.
FS	41	Darien Williams	Jr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	98	John Williams	Jr.
DT	90	Steven Coleman	Jr.
DT	96	DeMarcus Granger	Fr.
DE	92	Larry Birdine	Sr.
SLB	8	Ryan Reynolds	So.
MLB	40	Curtis Lofton	So.
WLB	16	Lewis Baker	Jr.
CB	24	Marcus Walker	Jr.
CB	3	Brian Jackson	Fr.
SS	9	Keenan Clayton	So.
FS	5	Nic Harris	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	10	Garrett Hartley	Jr.
P	39	Mike Knall	Jr.
KR	1	Reggie Smith	So.
PR	1	Reggie Smith	So.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 OKLAHOMA ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
7	Bomar, Rhett	QB	6'2"	215	So.	Grand Prairie, TX
11	Halzle, Joey	QB	6'4"	215	So.	Huntington Beach, CA
16	McEachern, Hays	QB	6'1"	190	So.	Austin, TX

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
34	Clapp, Matt	FB	6'2"	242	So.	Phoenix, AZ
21	Gutierrez, Jacob	RB	5'6"	186	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
23	Patrick, Allen	RB	6'0"	200	Jr.	Conway, SC
28	Peterson, Adrian	RB	6'2"	218	Jr.	Palestine, TX
29	Snell, Jermaine	RB	5'8"	178	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
40	Zaslaw, Dane	RB	6'0"	242	Jr.	Edmond, OK

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
27	Bothun, Garrett	WR	5'11"	185	Jr.	Rowlett, TX
19	Chaney, Quentin	WR	6'6"	200	So.	Tulsa, OK
82	Chilcoat, Justen	WR	6'1"	190	So.	Midwest City, OK
	Cochran, Jon	WR	5'10"	180	Fr.	Richardson, TX
87	Cummings, Aaron	TE	6'4"	236	Fr.	Marlow, OK
83	Eldridge, Brody	TE	6'5"	248	Fr.	La Cygne, KS
	Emmert, Jace	TE	6'1"	230	Jr.	Streetman, TX
80	English, Russell	WR	5'10"	170	So.	Dallas, TX
85	Finley, Joe Jon	TE	6'6"	244	Jr.	Arlington, TX
45	Greene, Jordan	TE	6'3"	240	Jr.	Colleyville, TX
15	Hardison, Jermaine	WR	6'3"	201	Jr.	Midwest City, OK
17	Huggins, Eric	WR	6'4"	190	Fr.	Conway, SC
9	Iglesias, Juaquin	WR	6'2"	190	So.	Killeen, TX
6	Johnson, Manuel	WR	6'0"	170	So.	Gilmer, TX
2	Kelly, Malcolm	WR	6'4"	204	So.	Longview, TX
	Smith, Kolby	TE	6'4"	230	So.	Pender, NE
81	Strong, Fred	WR	6'3"	188	So.	Austin, TX
12	Thompson, Paul	QB/WR	6'4"	210	Sr.	Leander, TX
34	Weyand, Ben	TE	6'3"	210	Fr.	Frisco, TX

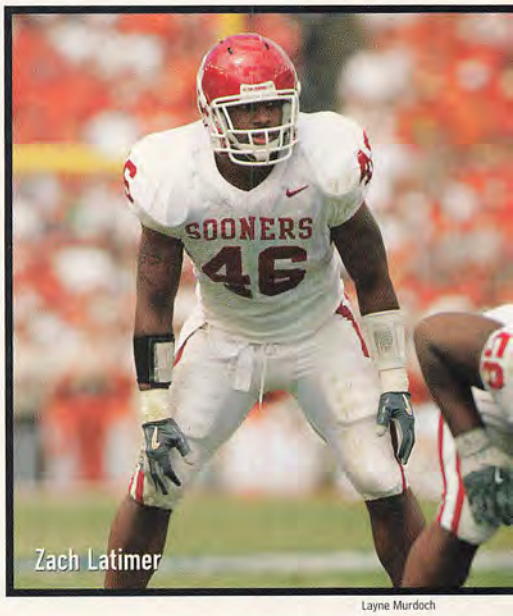
Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
65	Barresi, Ben	G	6'5"	296	So.	Edmond, OK
76	Braxton, Branndon	T	6'6"	318	So.	Youngstown, OH
50	Cooper, Jon	C	6'2"	278	So.	Fort Collins, CO
79	Messner, Chris	T	6'6"	280	Sr.	Frederick, OK
77	Moore, Sheronne	G	6'5"	300	Jr.	Derby, KS
63	Quinn, J.D.	C	6'3"	305	So.	Garland, TX
	Roark, Chad	OL	6'2"	290	Fr.	Ada, OK
72	Robinson, George	G/T	6'5"	328	So.	Atlanta, GA
60	Rothenberg, Aaron	OL	6'4"	290	Jr.	Madill, OK
71	Schacht, Cameron	OL	6'4"	270	So.	Coppell, TX
74	Simmons, Brian	G	6'5"	290	Fr.	Raleigh, NC
66	White, Jesse	OL	6'1"	297	Fr.	Denver, CO

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
99	Ah You, C.J.	DE	6'4"	265	Sr.	Highland, UT
97	Bennett, Cory	DT	6'2"	275	So.	San Antonio, TX
92	Birdine, Larry	DE	6'4"	258	Sr.	Lawton, OK
78	Blackard, Billy	DL	6'3"	292	Fr.	Claremore, OK
90	Coleman, Steven	DT	6'4"	291	Jr.	Dallas, TX
95	Davis, Alan	DE	6'2"	242	So.	Colleyville, TX
91	Dotson, Alonzo	DE	6'3"	239	Jr.	Alief, TX
84	English, Auston	DE	6'2"	248	So.	Canadian, TX
96	Granger, DeMarcus	DT	6'3"	305	Fr.	Dallas, TX
	Hardeman, Graygory	DE	6'3"	225	Fr.	Madisonville, TX
89	Moore, Cordero	DT	6'3"	320	Fr.	Mesquite, TX
82	Nixon, Laenar	DE	6'3"	223	Sr.	Miami, FL
68	Pendleton, Carl	DT	6'5"	277	Jr.	Sapulpa, OK
58	Thibodeaux, Calvin	DE	6'1"	251	Sr.	Houston, TX
98	Williams, John	DE	6'5"	252	Jr.	Houston, TX

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
42	Alexander, Rufus	LB	6'1"	231	Sr.	Baton Rouge, LA
16	Baker, Lewis	LB	6'3"	203	Jr.	Carrollton, TX
	Felty, Matt	LB	6'2"	220	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
	Hesse, Brock	LB	6'0"	220	Fr.	Mequite, TX
47	Jordan, Jonathan	LB	6'0"	230	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK
46	Latimer, Zach	LB	6'2"	220	Sr.	Denver, CO
40	Lofton, Curtis	LB	6'2"	238	So.	Kingfisher, OK
	Ngo, Pierre	LB	5'11"	210	Jr.	Muskogee, OK
	Patterson, Chris	LB	6'3"	220	So.	Chicago, IL
53	Petersen, Kyle	LB	6'2"	210	So.	Plano, TX
51	Pleasant, Demarrio	LB	6'2"	235	Jr.	Lewisville, TX
49	Pleasant, Ian	LB	5'11"	205	Sr.	Alexandria, VA
8	Reynolds, Ryan	LB	6'2"	230	So.	Las Vegas, NV
30	Robinson, Lamont	LB	6'1"	220	So.	Salem, NJ
	Smith, Jake	LB	6'2"	215	Fr.	Broken Arrow, OK

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
14	Bowers, Brett	S	5'11"	194	So.	Jacksonville, FL
	Carter, Courtney	DB	5'10"	180	So.	DeSoto, TX
6	Carter, Jason	SS	5'10"	192	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
	Carter, Quinton	DB	6'0"	185	Fr.	Las Vegas, NV
9	Clayton, Keenan	SS	6'2"	210	So.	Sulphur Springs, TX
30	Dixon, Dan	DB	6'0"	186	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
5	Harris, Nic	FS	6'3"	218	So.	Alexandria, LA
11	Holmes, Lendy	DB	6'2"	191	So.	Dallas, TX
3	Jackson, Brian	CB	6'2"	194	Fr.	De Soto, TX
1	Smith, Reggie	CB	6'1"	190	So.	Edmond, OK
24	Walker, Marcus	CB	5'10"	197	Jr.	Waco, TX
	Whitson, Carter	DB	5'11"	190	Fr.	Broken Arrow, OK
41	Williams, Darien	FS	5'10"	197	Jr.	Mesquite, TX
25	Wolfe, D.J.	CB	5'11"	196	Jr.	Lawton, OK

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
86	Anderson, Matt	K	6'0"	170	Fr.	Edmond, OK
67	Gresham, Clint	LS	6'3"	225	Fr.	Corpus Christi, TX
10	Hartley, Garrett	K	5'9"	182	Jr.	Southlake, TX
39	Knall, Mike	P	5'10"	175	Jr.	Chaparral, AZ



Zach Latimer

Layne Murdoch

Head Coach: Bob Stoops • Record at School: 75–16 (7 years) • Career Record: 75–16 (7 years) • Co-Offensive Coordinators: Kevin Wilson, Kevin Sumlin
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Brent Venables, Bobby Jack Wright • Norman, Okla. • Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

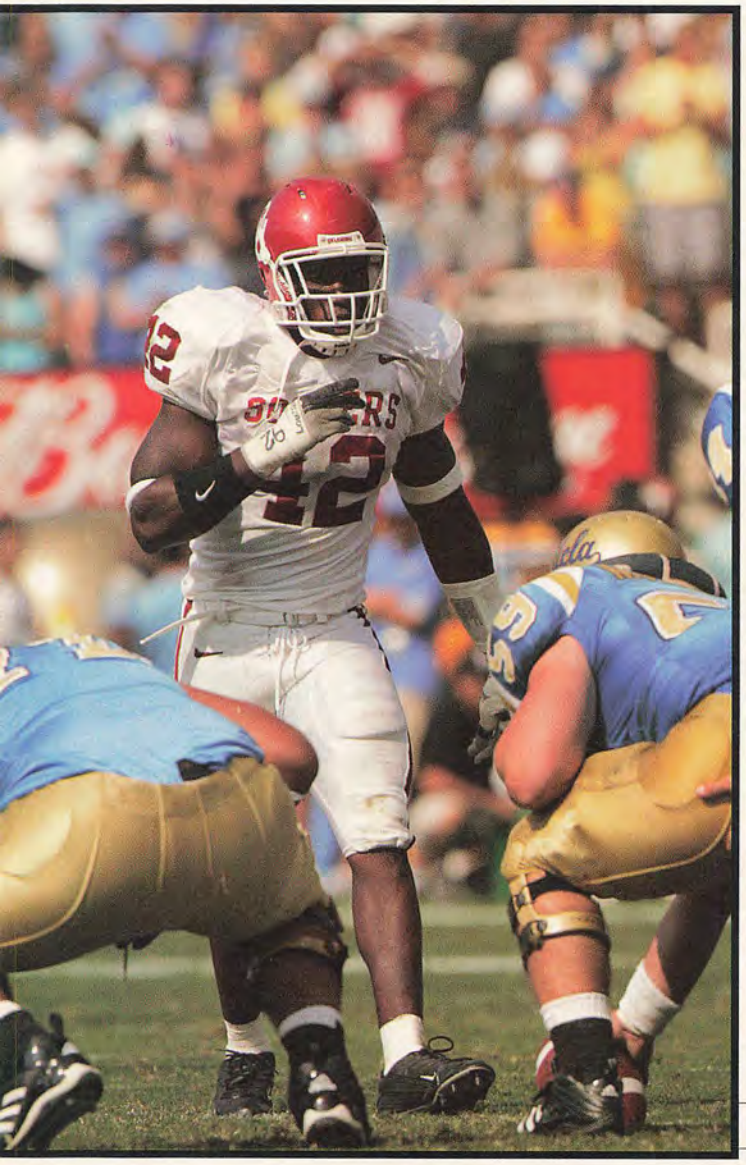
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Rhett Bomar	**308**	**167**	**2,018**	**10**	**10**
Paul Thompson	**26**	**11**	**109**	**0**	**1**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Adrian Peterson	**221**	**1,104**	**5.0**	**14**
Kejuan Jones	86	280	3.3	4
Jacob Gutierrez	**48**	**254**	**5.3**	**2**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Malcolm Kelly	**33**	**471**	**14.3**	**2**
Travis Wilson	25	310	12.4	1
J.D. Runnels	20	205	10.2	1

Kicking: **Garrett Hartley, 14-22 FGs, 37-38 XPs, 79 points**
Tackles: **Rufus Alexander, 102 Zach Latimer, 84**
Sacks: **Calvin Thibodeaux, 10**
Interceptions: Clint Ingram, 5

Returning Players in Bold



Rufus Alexander

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Staff shuffle Chuck Long's departure led to some shuffling of the Sooners' offensive staff. Kevin Wilson moved up to offensive coordinator from offensive line coach and run game coordinator, and former All-America quarterback Josh Heupel was named quarterbacks coach. Then, after receivers coach Darrell Wyatt took a job with the Minnesota Vikings, Oklahoma hired James Patton to coach the offensive line. Wilson moved over to tight ends and fullbacks. And Kevin Sumlin moved up to passing game coordinator and will coach receivers.

No controversy Paul Thompson, who battled with Rhett Bomar in 2005 but lost the quarterback position after a loss to TCU in the season-opener, has emerged as a potential playmaker at receiver. "I didn't want to just come in and be a big body for deep balls or just to make strong plays," Thompson says. "I want short routes, making yards after the play, too — wherever I need to run to make a play for this team."

Tough schedule A year ago, Oklahoma played the nation's toughest schedule, as measured by opponents' wins and losses. This year's schedule doesn't have many cupcakes. Oklahoma plays Washington and Oregon. As usual, a win or loss over Texas will probably decide the Big 12 South race. OU must also play at Missouri and at Texas A&M.

New rivalry When Oklahoma visits Autzen Stadium on Sept. 16, it will mark the Sooners' seventh game against the Ducks — and their third in three seasons. Oklahoma beat Oregon 31–7 in September 2004, then won 17–14 in last December's Holiday Bowl. Before that, the teams had not played since 1975. Add the series with Washington, and a recent two-game series with UCLA. "I don't want to start any rumors," Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione says, "but maybe they're trying to get us to consider joining the Pac-10."

2005 RESULTS

Record: 8–4 (6–2 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	TCU	L	10–17	84,332
Sept. 10	Tulsa	W	31–15	83,877
Sept. 17	at UCLA	L	24–41	56,522
Oct. 1	Kansas State	W	43–21	84,501
Oct. 8	at Texas	L	12–45	75,452
Oct. 15	at Kansas	W	19– 3	54,109
Oct. 22	Baylor	W	37–30	83,456
Oct. 29	at Nebraska	W	31–24	77,438
Nov. 12	Texas A&M	W	36–30	84,943
Nov. 19	at Texas Tech	L	21–23	52,625
Nov. 26	Oklahoma State	W	42–14	84,875
Dec. 29	#Oregon	W	17–14	65,416
	#Holiday Bowl			

Shelly Castellano

2006 RECRUITING

The buzz was about Gerald McCoy and DeMarco Murray. But Oklahoma's recruiting class — another consensus Top 10 class — might have been made when the Sooners lured seven offensive linemen to Norman. That's seven of 28 signees. And that was a necessity because, while Oklahoma has plenty of weapons at the offensive skill positions, the Sooners had lost nine significant offensive line contributors from the 2004 and 2005 seasons.

Most important might have been the addition of two junior college transfers. Sherrone Moore enrolled last January. And Brandon Walker will arrive in August. They'll immediately compete for playing time on a line that lost four players who started at least one game in 2005. "I hope I'm the key," Walker says. "I'm gonna try my hardest to get (the skill players) good yardage."

With the linemen safely aboard, the Sooners could turn their attention to the guys who actually get statistics. DeMarco Murray, a standout tailback from Las Vegas who was ranked the nation's top running back by one recruiting service, followed his former high school teammate Ryan Reynolds to Oklahoma. His arrival, and the signing of fellow tailbacks Chris Brown and Mossis Madu, meant the Sooners had addressed a pressing need for 2007, since they anticipate Adrian Peterson's departure for the NFL after this season.

In McCoy and tight end Jermaine Gresham, who chose Oklahoma over USC and Miami, respectively, the Sooners won significant battles for in-state players. The Sooners also expect big things quickly from wide receiver Adron Tennell and safety Malcolm Williams.

Curtis Bailey OL 6'7" 340 Dallas, TX
Ranked No. 14 offensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

Jeremy Beal DL 6'2" 243 Carrollton, TX
Ranked No. 11 defensive end in the country by ESPN.

Chase Beeler OL 6'4" 275 Jenks, OK
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com.

Sam Bradford QB 6'4" 200 Oklahoma City, OK
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com.

Cory Brandon OL 6'6" 265 Corsicana, TX
Ranked No. 10 offensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

Chris Brown RB 5'10" 192 Alexandria, LA
Ranked No. 9 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com.

Brandon Caleb WR 6'1" 194 Atlanta, GA
Ranked No. 17 wide receiver in the nation by Scout.com.

Quinton Carter DB 6'0" 185 Las Vegas, NV
Ranked No. 3 prospect in Nevada by Rivals.com.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Offensive Linemen	7	Texas	10
Defensive Linemen	5	Oklahoma	9
Defensive Backs	4	Illinois	2
Linebackers	3	Nevada	2
Running Backs	3	California	1
Quarterbacks	2	Georgia	1
Tight Ends	2	Kansas	1
Wide Receivers	2	Louisiana	1
		Michigan	1

Brandon Crow LB 6'2" 215 Comanche, OK
Named District 2 Class 2A Linebacker of the Year.

Dominique Franks DB 6'0" 178 Tulsa, OK
Ranked No. 4 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com. Recorded seven INTs, returning three for TDs, and also had three kick return TDs as a senior.

Jermaine Gresham TE 6'7" 230 Ardmore, OK
Ranked No. 1 tight end in the nation and No. 2 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com. Had 70 receptions for 1,205 yards and 24 TDs as a senior.

Joey Halzle QB 6'4" 215 Huntington Beach, CA
Threw for 2,077 yards and 13 TDs in 10 games at Golden West (Calif.) CC.

Tim Johnson DE 6'6" 265 Homewood, IL
NEO (Ill.) JC transfer did not play organized football until HS junior year.

SPOTLIGHT ON...GERALD McCOY

Defensive Tackle • 6'4" • 305 • Oklahoma City, OK

He kept Bob Stoops waiting until Signing Day, then announced his intentions with an Oklahoma cap and the traditional inverted-Horns hand signal. Thus did Gerald McCoy, the National Defensive Player of the Year from Oklahoma City's Southeast High School, end the suspense: He would be a Sooner. And as the locals rejoiced, Oklahoma's coaches did too. Although he'll arrive at a position that has plenty of talent, the 6'4", 305-pounder is likely to make an immediate impact. Consider his dominating performance in the Army All-American game. Consider Pete Carroll's hard push to lure him away to sunny Southern California. And consider Bob Stoops' thoughts after McCoy signed. "Of all the players we've recruited, he's one of the special ones," Stoops says.

Pryce Macon DE 6'1" 258 Corpus Christi, TX
Ranked No. 54 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com.

Mossis Madu RB 6'1" 190 Norman, OK
Ranked No. 10 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com.

Eric Mensik TE 6'5" 231 Rosenberg, TX
Ranked No. 25 tight end in the nation by Rivals.com.

Sherrone Moore OL 6'5" 300 Derby, KS
Butler County (Kan.) CC transfer enrolled at OU in January.

DeMarco Murray RB 6'0" 183 Las Vegas, NV
Ranked No. 1 running back and No. 6 prospect in the nation by ESPN.com. Rushed for 1,947 yards and scored 34 total TDs as a senior.

Jonathan Nelson DB 6'1" 180 Mansfield, TX
Ranked No. 10 cornerback in the nation by ESPN.com.

Chris Patterson LB 6'3" 220 Chicago, IL
NEO (Ill.) JC transfer named NJCAA first-team All-American.

Chad Roark OL 6'2" 290 Ada, OK
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Enrolled at OU in Jan. '06.

Daniel Tabon LB 6'3" 215 Altus, OK
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com.

Adrian Taylor DL 6'5" 280 Mansfield, TX
Named District 4 Class 5A Defensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Adron Tennell WR 6'5" 195 Irving, TX
Ranked No. 3 receiver in nation by Rivals.com and No. 5 by ESPN.com.

Brandon Walker OL 6'3" 315 Detroit, MI
Coffeyville (Kan.) CC transfer named NJCAA first-team All-American.

Malcolm Williams DB 5'10" 172 Grand Prairie, TX
Named Class 5A Defensive Player of the Year and District 6 MVP.

Trent Williams OL 6'5" 290 Longview, TX
Named first-team All-District 12 Class 5A as a senior.

National Forecast **81** | Big 12 South Prediction **6th**

Turnover. And turnovers. Those were the factors that doomed Oklahoma State a year ago. The first is no longer a problem, and the second had better not be if the Cowboys are to regain momentum in the Big 12 South.

Mike Gundy's first year as head coach at OSU began badly, when popular senior cornerback Vernon Grant was killed in a car crash and another nine players were either dismissed or quit before the season-opener.

The Cowboys won only once in their final eight games, finishing 4–7 after shuffling quarterbacks and ranking 115th nationally with 35 turnovers lost. "Rough stuff," Gundy says now, looking back. And yet, some good came out of the struggles.

The Cowboys grew comfortable in their new schemes on both sides of the ball, with critical progress made in both understanding and operating their tempo-based spread offense. All the young players forced into action — including 19 freshmen, eight of whom started — are better equipped to contribute. Some should be stars.

And stability seems to be restored at quarterback, where sophomore Bobby Reid shook off injuries and inconsistencies from his debut season to suggest during the spring that he's ready to start earning those old comparisons to Vince Young in their hometown of Houston.

Add it all up, and Gundy says the Cowboys are ready for a return to the success that saw them go to three straight bowls before last season. "I think we have good enough players to get back in the bowl picture," says Gundy. "I don't want to make brash statements, but we have maturity and we have guys who can make plays with the ball in their hands. I have a lot of confidence in these guys."

Quarterbacks Reid's anticipated arrival never materialized. Oh, he earned the starting job, unseating Donovan Woods after the second game, yet he failed to arrive as a playmaker.

At midseason, he dislocated three toes against Missouri, then struggled upon his return four games later and ended up on the bench. "The injury really affected Bobby last year," Gundy says. "Then his confidence level went down. But he made plays in the spring and it's nice to see that it's finally happening for him."

Throw in Al Pena's 13 interceptions and the quarterback position accounted for half the team's ugly turnover total.

If Reid doesn't get it done, redshirt freshman Zac Robinson is waiting. Pena also returns, with touted recruit Alex Cate likely headed for a redshirt season.

Running Backs Gundy now appreciates tailback Mike Hamilton, although it took a while for Hamilton to grow on his coach.

Spoiled by the speed of NFL backs Tatum Bell and Vernand Morency at the position previously, Gundy spent much of last season wishing for more out of the tailback spot.

But by season's end, Hamilton had 961 yards as a redshirt freshman and was named Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year.

"Mike was put in a position where he was compared to all these other backs we've had around here," Gundy says. "That's not Mike. He's not flashy like those guys. He's solid and steady and durable."

Cowboys coaches think they've added the speed element with the addition of junior college All-American Dantrell Savage, who could share duties with Hamilton and give the offense another receiving threat.

Julius Crosslin, a big bruising back who scored 12 touchdowns a year ago, has a role in short yardage and goal-line situations.

NUMBERS GAME

114 The Cowboys ranked 114th nationally in turnover margin in 2005, a stat that must improve if they're to manage a turnaround this fall.

Receivers Coordinator Larry Fedora's spread offense, wildly successful at Florida, never took off, due in part to a lack of skilled wideouts.

D'Juan Woods ranks among the league's best, but without respected weapons opposite him, defenses regularly dogged Woods with double teams. That won't be advisable this fall.

Woods, who still produced 56 catches and eight touchdowns, will be flanked by Adarius Bowman, who just may be as good — if not better. Bowman is a big, physical receiver who excels in producing yards after the catch. "I've coached guys with less talent who are playing in the NFL," Fedora says.

Ricky Price, one of the freshmen pushed into duty in '05, improved as last season progressed and has speed to fill seams downfield. Juco transfer Anthony Parks will push for a starting job, and Jeremy Broadway and Tommy Devereaux should provide needed depth for the spread.

Tight end Brandon Pettigrew's speed and hands will earn him a featured role in the passing attack.

Offensive Linemen Starters return with Corey Hilliard and David Koenig at the tackles and David Washington at center, but freshmen might have to fill the guard slots, leaving the line a major question mark.

Years of recruiting misses have the Cowboys in a bind. That's why first-year players Andrew Lawrence, Jacob Secrest and

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE COWBOYS

Oklahoma State's quest to get back in a bowl rides on the arm of quarterback Bobby Reid, who looked lost at times as a freshman. Reid did make major strides in the spring, and he'll have more playmaking options surrounding him, lessening his load. Year two of coordinator Larry Fedora's no-huddle spread offense should look much different. There's a comfort level that was absent in '05, when three different quarterbacks started and weapons were limited. Two transfers, wide receiver Adarius Bowman and running back Dantrell Savage, should inject needed speed into the attack and loosen things up for standout receiver D'Juan Woods. Still, the offensive line shows gaping holes at the guard spots, threatening to undermine the progress of Reid and the offense. Defensively, the front four offers talent and depth, but youth dominates at linebacker and in the secondary. There is talent in the back seven, but growing pains are to be expected. Coordinator Vance Bedford might just turn his youngsters loose, rather than put too much on them mentally. Special teams have traditionally been a strength, and kicker Bruce Redden could be the difference in close games. But the punting game was an adventure a year ago and must be overhauled.

Mike Hamilton

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Missouri State	W
S.	9	at Arkansas State	W
S.	16	Florida Atlantic	W
S.	23	at Houston	L
O.	**7**	**at Kansas State**	*
O.	14	at Kansas	L
O.	21	Texas A&M	L
O.	28	Nebraska	L
N.	4	at Texas	L
N.	**11**	**Baylor**	*
N.	18	at Texas Tech	L
N.	25	Oklahoma	L

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Woods, Hamilton: Chris Covatta

Oklahoma State WR

D'Juan Woods

Noah Franklin are being thrust into the mix.

"Playing freshmen is scary," Gundy says.

Hilliard is an all-conference candidate. Steve Denning, a junior college transfer who redshirted last year, could add some maturity by claiming a spot. Otherwise, there are few options if anyone falters or injuries hit.

Defensive Linemen Tackle Ryan McBean and a deep rotation of ends could turn the front into a team strength.

McBean was everything advertised a year ago when he arrived from junior college and led all linemen in tackles and produced three sacks. Strong and athletic, McBean can leverage himself inside or bolt around blockers to make plays.

At end, Nathan Peterson, Darnell Smith, Victor DeGrate and Marque Fountain have all started. Peterson and Fountain are pass-rushing specialists who are returning from injury-plagued seasons.

DeGrate, a former linebacker, bulked up and dominated during spring. Smith is a versatile high-energy player who can play inside as well.

Knee injuries prevented tackle Xavier Lawson-Kennedy from ever approaching the hype that accompanied him from high school days.

Linebackers Gundy took a chance on Chris Collins, who hasn't played since 2003 due to legal problems. So far, the gamble is paying off. In the spring, Collins was OSU's best linebacker, making plays from sideline to sideline. "He has instincts," says defensive coordinator Vance Bedford. "He has a knack for getting to the football. You can't teach that."

The Cowboys needed someone to assert himself, after losing three senior linebackers.

Marcus Brown, a transfer from Air Force, is a rugged tackler who could fill another spot. Rodrick Johnson, a part-time starter who struggled in pass coverage in the past, seems closer to offering the complete package.

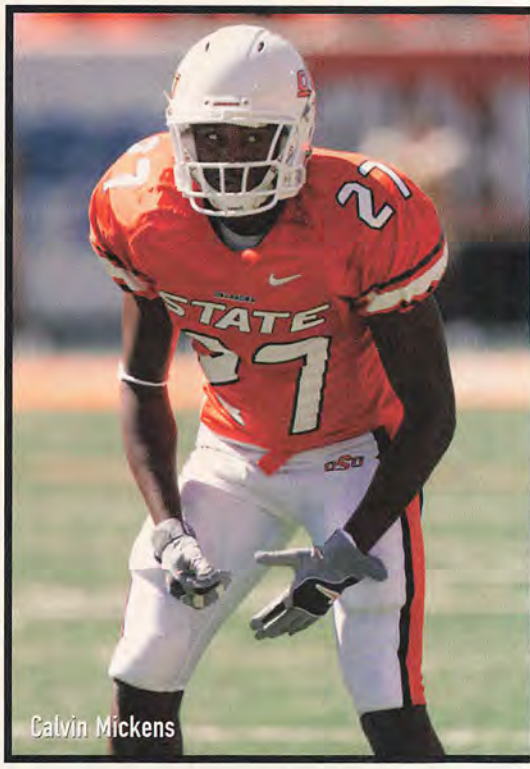
Jeremy Nethon, a converted safety, is smaller, yet fits Bedford's blitzing packages.

Defensive Backs Auditions for starting jobs may carry right up to the season opener. Only strong safety Donovan Woods, who started late in the season after his move from quarterback, appears set. Cornerbacks Martel Van Zant and Calvin Mickens have started, but Van Zant must fend off juco transfer Scott Broughton to hold his job, and Mickens shifted between free safety and corner during the spring.

There is speed and talent in the secondary, but youth is an issue. Jacob Lacey, pushing for one cornerback job, is a barely tested sophomore. Free safety Andre Sexton is a redshirt freshman, and Woods' backup, Quinton Moore, is a sophomore.

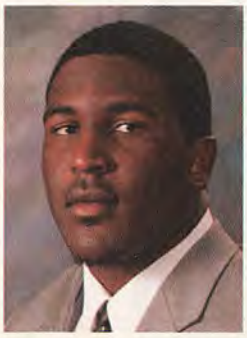
Perrish Cox, the gem of the February recruiting class, could press for playing time.

Specialists Bruce Redden provided a welcome surprise, hitting 11-of-14 field goals after Jason Ricks was forced to redshirt due to injury. Redden now must hold off Ricks, who was good on 11-of-16 attempts in 2004. Punter Matt Fodge must improve his consistency after averaging 39.9 yards per kick.



Calvin Mickens

RISING STAR



Chris Collins was once the No. 1-ranked linebacker in Texas, and an early commitment to the Texas Longhorns. That was before a sexual assault case detoured his career, leading him eventually to OSU. He was the defensive star of the spring as a freshman, seizing a starting job.

KEY COWBOYS

Bobby Reid, QB
The sophomore's development is vital.

Corey Hilliard, RT
On a young line, the senior must be a leader and teacher.

D'Juan Woods, WR
He's been good, but now has a chance to be great.

Victor DeGrate, DE
Former LB is filled out and fired up.

Ryan McBean, DT
Versatility inside produces matchup problems.

KEY LOSSES

Jamie Thompson, FS
Inspirational leader who played with pain will be missed.

Charlie Johnson, LT
Moved from TE and offered stability to the QB's blind side.

Daniel McLemore, CB
Speed allowed him to play big; also an exciting return man.

Paul Duren, LB
Underappreciated as an athlete, he racked up tackles.

Lawrence Pinson, LB
Three-year starter had great intangibles.

Chris Covatta

SCOUTING THE COWBOYS

Opposing coaches size up Oklahoma State: "I thought Mike Gundy was a little overwhelmed last season and they went through the ups and downs most first-year coaches experience. They'll be a lot better if (quarterback) Bobby Reid can stay healthy. He's got a chance to be a good quarterback. He's got to run more to be really effective in that spread offense. They've got a lot of weapons on offense. ... (Wide receiver) D'Juan Woods is an explosive player who can beat you vertically, and the North Carolina transfer (Adarius Bowman) should take some of the attention away from him. (Tight end) Brandon Pettigrew really has good instincts and they do a good job of finding him. (Tackle) Corey Hilliard has to be the anchor of the offensive line because it's going to be inexperienced. ... They've got to get a lot better on defense. You can't be giving up 62 points to Texas A&M and expect to win league games. They're just so overmatched physically right now and that's a tough thing to overcome in the Big 12 South."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**84**	**D'Juan Woods**	**Sr.**
WR	12	Adarius Bowman	Jr.
SL	**6**	**Ricky Price**	**So.**
LT	**61**	**David Koenig**	**Jr.**
LG	52	Andrew Lawrence	Fr.
C	**63**	**David Washington**	**So.**
RG	65	Steve Denning	So.
RT	**75**	**Corey Hilliard**	**Sr.**
TE	**87**	**Brandon Pettigrew**	**So.**
QB	**14**	**Bobby Reid**	**So.**
TB	**29**	**Mike Hamilton**	**So.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	9	Jeremy Broadway	So.
WR	83	Anthony Parks	Jr.
SL	10	Tommy Devereaux	Jr.
LT	60	Brady Bond	Fr.
LG	57	Jacob Secrest	Fr.
C	72	Kurt Seifried	Sr.
RG	77	Noah Franklin	Fr.
RT	68	Marshal Tetsworth	Sr.
TE	88	Paschal Smith	Jr.
QB	11	Zac Robinson	Fr.
TB		Dantrell Savage	Jr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (5)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	13	Nathan Peterson	Jr.
DT	**93**	**Ryan McBean**	**Sr.**
DT	92	Larry Brown	Sr.
DE	**51**	**Victor DeGrate**	**Sr.**
LB	2	Rodrick Johnson	Jr.
LB	35	Marcus Brown	So.
LB	44	Chris Collins	Fr.
CB		Scott Broughton	Jr.
CB	17	Jacob Lacey	So.
SS	**8**	**Donovan Woods**	**Jr.**
FS	20	Andre Sexton	Fr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	50	Darnell Smith	Sr.
DT	96	Jeray Chatham	So.
DT	**90**	**Xavier Lawson-Kennedy**	**Sr.**
DE	97	Marque Fountain	Jr.
LB	19	Jeremy Nethon	Jr.
LB	40	Donnell Williams	Fr.
LB	36	Alex Odiari	So.
CB	7	Martel Van Zant	Jr.
CB		Perrish Cox	Fr.
SS	26	Quinton Moore	So.
FS	**27**	**Calvin Mickens**	**So.**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	10	Bruce Redden	Sr.
P	18	Matt Fodge	So.
KR	10	Tommy Devereaux	Jr.
PR	10	Tommy Devereaux	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 OKLAHOMA STATE ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
3	Cate, Alex	QB	6'2"	198	Fr.	Salt Lake City, UT
7	Friess, Mike	QB	6'2"	215	Jr.	Wichita, KS
4	Peña, Al	QB	6'3"	225	Jr.	Leander, TX
14	Reid, Bobby	QB	6'3"	225	So.	Houston, TX
11	Robinson, Zac	QB	6'3"	195	Fr.	Littleton, CO

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
32	Crosslin, Julius	RB	5'11"	240	Jr.	Amarillo, TX
29	Hamilton, Mike	RB	6'1"	215	So.	Melbourne, FL
33	Johnson, John	FB	6'3"	255	So.	El Dorado, AR
49	Limbrick, Lance	RB	5'10"	190	Fr.	Sugarland, TX
1	Roberts, Calvin	RB	5'11"	225	Jr.	Port Arthur, TX
31	White, Kevin	RB	6'3"	210	So.	DeSoto, TX

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
12	Bowman, Adarius	WR	6'4"	215	Jr.	Chattanooga, TN
9	Broadway, Jeremy	WR	5'11"	180	So.	Houston, TX
10	Devereaux, Tommy	WR	6'1"	175	Jr.	Duncanville, TX
85	Hudspeth, David	WR	5'11"	175	Fr.	Denton, TX
15	Mack, Chijuan	WR	6'3"	180	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA
81	McDonnell, Nick	TE	6'3"	265	Sr.	Plano, TX
28	Morris, Jon	WR	6'0"	190	Jr.	Glenpool, OK
25	Nelson, Todd	WR	6'0"	195	So.	Edmond, OK
16	Newton, Seth	WR	6'3"	190	So.	Girard, KS
83	Parks, Anthony	WR	6'0"	190	Jr.	Olathe, KS
87	Pettigrew, Brandon	TE	6'5"	255	So.	Tyler, TX
6	Price, Ricky	WR	6'0"	175	So.	Houston, TX
17	Ross, Zac	WR	5'8"	175	Fr.	Muskogee, OK
88	Smith, Paschal	TE	6'4"	270	Jr.	Dallas, TX
89	Standberry, Tremayne	TE	6'3"	250	Jr.	Lewisville, TX
13	Tucker, Jeromie	WR	5'7"	170	Sr.	Bixby, OK
82	Waller, Justin	TE	6'4"	250	So.	Ponca City, OK
86	Williams, Tevin	WR	6'3"	205	Sr.	Stillwater, OK
84	Woods, D'Juan	WR	6'1"	210	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK

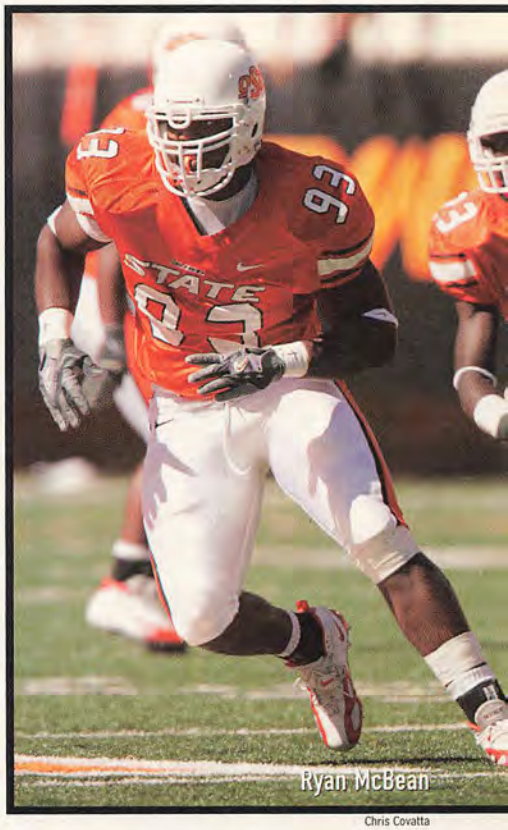
Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
60	Bond, Brady	T	6'6"	260	Fr.	Garber, OK
62	Botek, Blake	OL	6'4"	295	So.	Grand Ledge, MI
65	Denning, Steve	G	6'4"	285	So.	Southaven, MS
77	Franklin, Noah	G	6'4"	305	Fr.	Vinita, OK
70	Friess, Phil	OL	6'5"	280	Jr.	Conway Springs, KS
75	Hilliard, Corey	T	6'5"	310	Sr.	New Orleans, LA
61	Koenig, David	T	6'4"	290	Jr.	Cape Coral, FL
52	Lawrence, Andrew	G	6'4"	305	Fr.	Dallas, GA
54	Lewis, Andrew	OL	6'5"	265	Fr.	Joplin, MO
67	Palmoore, Jeremy	OL	6'6"	315	So.	Memphis, TN
57	Secrest, Jacob	G	6'5"	295	Fr.	Stillwater, OK
72	Seifried, Kurt	C	6'4"	300	Sr.	Jenks, OK
79	Simon, Chris	OL	6'5"	310	So.	Waller, TX
68	Tetsworth, Marshal	T	6'5"	275	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
63	Washington, David	C	6'4"	295	So.	Guthrie, OK

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
92	Brown, Larry	DT	6'3"	295	Sr.	Spartanburg, SC
96	Chatham, Jeray	DT	6'4"	270	So.	Houston, TX
56	Cummings, Maurice	DE	6'4"	265	Jr.	Rosebud, TX
51	DeGrate, Victor	DE	6'3"	250	Sr.	DeSoto, TX
97	Fountain, Marque	DE	6'1"	260	Jr.	Missouri City, TX
90	Lawson-Kennedy, Xavier	DT	6'1"	315	Sr.	Duncanville, TX
93	McBean, Ryan	DT	6'5"	290	Sr.	Euless, TX
95	Minor, T.J.	DE	6'4"	240	Fr.	Houston, TX
13	Peterson, Nathan	DE	6'2"	250	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
74	Pinaire, Josh	DT	6'5"	280	Jr.	Derby, KS
50	Smith, Darnell	DE	6'0"	270	Sr.	San Antonio, TX

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
35	Brown, Marcus	LB	6'2"	240	So.	Hephzibah, GA
47	Burton, Jeremiah	LB	6'2"	230	So.	Enid, OK
53	Clements, Seb	LB	6'1"	230	So.	Sanger, TX
44	Collins, Chris	LB	6'1"	230	Fr.	Texarkana, TX
2	Johnson, Rodrick	LB	6'3"	255	Jr.	Galveston, TX
19	Nethon, Jeremy	LB	5'9"	190	Jr.	Beggs, OK
36	Odiari, Alex	LB	6'1"	225	So.	Carrollton, TX
45	Thompson, Durfey	LB	5'10"	220	So.	Edmond, OK
40	Williams, Donnell	LB	6'3"	220	Fr.	Houston, TX

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
11	Bell, T.J.	CB	5'11"	180	So.	DeSoto, TX
24	Billingsley, Cortney	DB	5'10"	185	Sr.	Arlington, TX
25	Coe, Clint	DB	6'1"	190	Jr.	Edmond, OK
30	Jones, Grant	S	5'10"	195	Sr.	Pawnee, OK
39	Ketiku, Sonji	CB	5'8"	175	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
17	Lacey, Jacob	CB	5'10"	180	So.	Garland, TX
27	Mickens, Calvin	FS	6'2"	185	So.	Beaumont, TX
26	Moore, Quinton	SS	5'11"	185	So.	Pearland, TX
20	Sexton, Andre	FS	6'1"	190	Fr.	Houston, TX
7	Van Zant, Martel	CB	6'2"	205	Jr.	Tyler, TX
8	Woods, Donovan	SS	6'2"	220	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
55	Allen, Zach	LS	6'1"	270	So.	Edmond, OK
18	Fodge, Matt	P/K	6'0"	180	So.	Garland, TX
58	Mariacher, Kyle	LS	6'3"	225	Jr.	Elma, NY
10	Redden, Bruce	P/K	5'9"	185	Sr.	Woodward, OK
38	Reynolds, Cole	P/K	6'3"	215	Fr.	Edmond, OK
85	Ricks, Jason	P/K	6'1"	190	So.	Round Rock, TX



Ryan McBean

Chris Covatta

Head Coach: Mike Gundy • Record at School: 4–7 (1 year) • Career Record: 4–7 (1 year)
Offensive Coordinator: Larry Fedora • Defensive Coordinator: Vance Bedford • Stillwater, Okla. • Boone Pickens Stadium (48,000)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

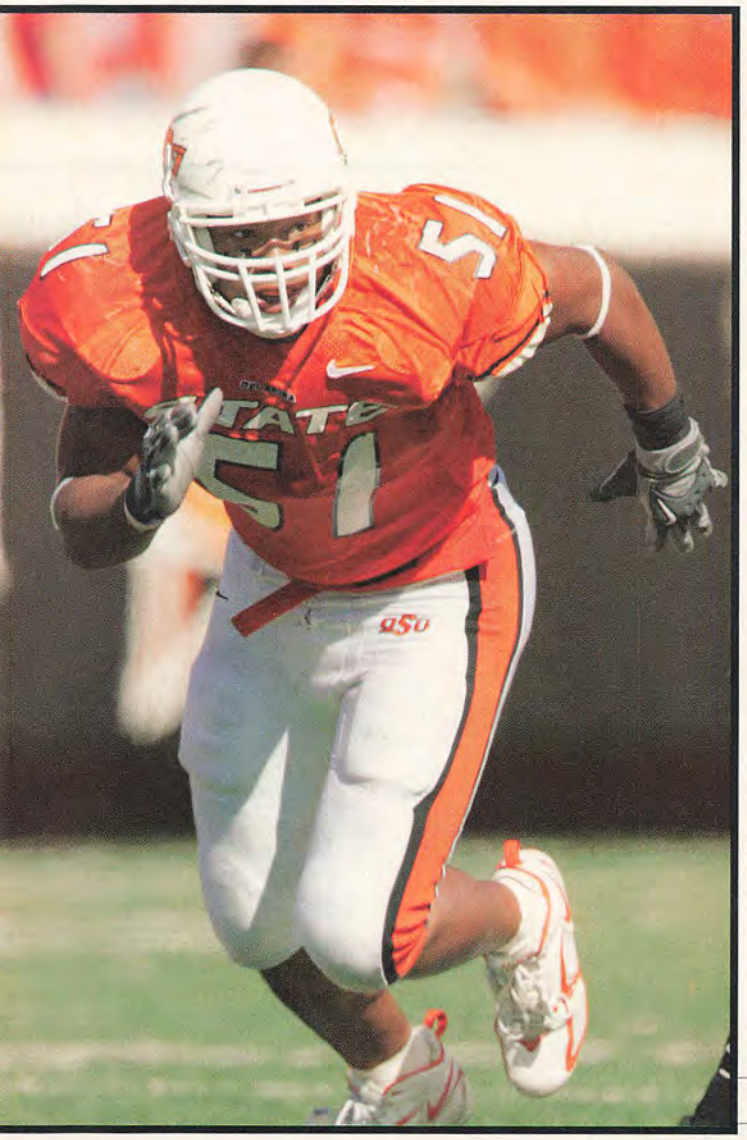
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Al Pena	179	89	1,102	8	13
Bobby Reid	108	52	602	2	4

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Mike Hamilton	193	961	5.0	1
Julius Crosslin	71	231	3.3	12
Bobby Reid	61	139	2.3	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
D'Juan Woods	56	879	15.7	8
Mike Hamilton	20	161	8.1	0
Ricky Price	16	238	14.9	0

Kicking: **Bruce Redden, 11-14 FGs, 23-24 XPs, 56 points**
Tackles: Jamar Ransom, 99; Jamie Thompson, 83
Sacks: **Victor DeGrate, 5**
Interceptions: **Donovan Woods, 2; Calvin Mickens, 2**

Returning Players in Bold



Victor DeGrate

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Welcome back Cowboys coach Mike Gundy, himself a former player at OSU, has worked hard to make past players and coaches feel welcome around the program — a relationship that had been lacking in recent years. Using the weekend of the spring game as a drawing card, Gundy's efforts showed when some 275 ex-Pokes — including Barry Sanders, Hart Lee Dykes and Walt Garrison — returned to their orange roots.

Stadium stretch Phase II of a three-part stadium renovation will be finished for the start of the 2006 season. To be completed: a massive west end zone addition to be constructed from the ground up that houses coaches offices, weight room, training facilities, dining hall and Hall of Fame. When finished in 2008, Boone Pickens Stadium will have been overhauled at a price of $210 million.

Good sign Junior Martel Van Zant, battling to start at a cornerback spot, is deaf. A former Texas Top 100 recruit, Van Zant has a signing interpreter on the sideline for practices and games.

Woods on Woods Donovan and D'Juan Woods once had a connection on offense, with Donovan at quarterback and D'Juan roaming secondaries as a wide receiver. Now that Donovan has moved to strong safety, the Woods brothers look to connect in a different way in practices.

Fine dining Oklahoma State has taken the training table concept to a new level. A team of chefs provides a variety of top-quality entrees and extras, even accepting players' recipes from mom to provide the comfort foods of home. Favorite foods: steak, shrimp and Ryan McBean's mom's Jamaican jerk chicken.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 4–7 (1–7 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	Montana State	W	15–10	43,857
Sept. 8	at Florida Atlantic	W	23– 3	16,421
Sept. 17	Arkansas State	W	20–10	46,817
Oct. 1	Colorado	L	0–34	47,908
Oct. 8	Missouri	L	31–38	42,511
Oct. 15	at Texas A&M	L	23–62	78,451
Oct. 22	at Iowa State	L	10–37	43,964
Oct. 29	Texas	L	28–47	48,035
Nov. 12	Texas Tech	W	24–17	40,035
Nov. 19	at Baylor	L	34–44	28,753
Nov. 26	at Oklahoma	L	14–42	84,875

Chris Covatta

2006 RECRUITING

Oklahoma State coaches spun a 4–7 season into a pitch that offered opportunity to anyone willing to sign on for the rebuilding job. And it worked. The Cowboys produced a Top 25 class, addressing needs across the board in a haul that some familiar with the program suggest might be the school's best ever. OSU pulled 11 players off the Texas Top 100 list of popular recruiting services, including four-star prospects in cornerbacks Terrance Anderson and Perrish Cox, defensive end Ugo Chinasa, offensive lineman Russell Okung, and linebackers Patrick Lavine, Adrian Hamilton, Justin Gent and Donnell Williams to fill the team's most obvious void after the graduation of four seniors.

Cox, rated one of top players in Texas, pulled a Signing-Day switch from LSU, home of former Cowboys coach Les Miles. That came after Salt Lake City quarterback Alex Cate, the No. 19 signal-caller in the country according to Rivals.com, had earlier flipped his commitment from LSU to OSU. Looking to add speed to the backfield, the Cowboys signed elusive runner Dantrell Savage out of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

The class, which featured something for everyone, was the payoff for a renewed emphasis on recruiting by Gundy. "I'm going to guess I went into 40 homes," Gundy says. "We worked on recruiting every day. And our product got increasingly better as the recruiting season went on."

Terrance Anderson ATH 6'0" 173 Aldine, TX
Named Northeast Houston Area Offensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Michael Booker OL 6'3" 295 Paris, TX
Named first-team All-District 12 Class 4A as a senior.

Scott Broughton CB 6'1" 185 Huger, SC
Georgia Military transfer had 10 INTs, returning two for TDs, and also blocked two field goals in 2005. Named first-team NJCAA All-American.

Preston Brown ATH 5'10" 175 Antioch, TN
Rushed for 1,350 yards and 12 TDs as a senior. Added three INTs.

Derek Burton DL 6'5" 255 Muskogee, OK
Named District 4 Class 6A Defensive Player of the Year. Had 17 sacks and 18 tackles for a loss as a senior. Father, Derek, played at OSU.

Alex Cate QB 6'2" 198 Salt Lake City, UT
Threw for 2,800 yards and 34 TDs as a senior. Won state title in 2004.

Ugonna Chinasa DE 6'6" 230 Richardson, TX
Named Houston Touchdown Club's Defensive Player of the Year and the Dallas Morning News' Area Defensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Chris Collins LB 6'1" 230 Texarkana, TX
Named District 13 Class 4A Defensive MVP. Forced 10 fumbles as a junior.

DeMarcus Conner WR 6'1" 190 Spring, TX
Named first-team All-District 22 Class 5A as a senior.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Linebackers	6	Texas	19
Athletes	5	Oklahoma	3
Defensive Linemen	5	Georgia	2
Offensive Linemen	5	Kansas	1
Wide Receivers	3	South Carolina	1
Cornerbacks	2	Tennessee	1
Quarterbacks	1	Utah	1
Running Backs	1		

Deron Fontenot LB/S 5'11" 205 Grand Prairie, TX
Recorded 86 tackles as a junior. One of OSU's earliest commitments.

Justin Gent LB 6'2" 214 Irving, TX
Named District 6 Class 5A Defensive MVP as a senior.

Adrian Hamilton LB 6'2" 220 Dallas, TX
Named District 9 Class 5A Defensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Shane Jarka DE 6'3" 235 Fort Bend, TX
Named District 20 Class 5A co-Defensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Patrick Lavine LB 6'2" 210 Houston, TX
Finalist for Houston Touchdown Club's Defensive Player of the Year.

SPOTLIGHT ON...PERRISH COX

Cornerback • 6'1" • 180 • Waco, TX

The picture of Cowboys coach Mike Gundy seemed out of place, perched on a billboard high above the Waco, Texas, roadway, soliciting followers: "I Want You at OSU!"

Who? Converted fans? Sure, although they likely weren't the primary target. No, the message was surely aimed at Waco University High star Perrish Cox. And in the end, the very end, the Cowboys got their man. Cox cut out on a commitment to LSU in a last-minute Signing Day switch, putting a fine final piece to a strong recruiting class.

"Adding Perrish Cox was an exciting finish to the recruiting class," Gundy says. "We look forward to what he brings to this team, not only on defense but on special teams."

Cox, ranked among the nation's top cornerback prospects, is considered a shutdown defender capable of taking away an opponent's top receiver. He'll challenge for playing time right away at OSU, both at corner and returning kicks, an area where the Cowboys struggled in 2005.

Orie Lemon ATH 6'1" 224 Houston, TX
Named District 22 Class 4A Offensive MVP as a senior.

Jonathan Lewis DL 6'4" 290 Carrollton, TX
Enrolled at OSU in January. Recorded 10 sacks as a senior.

Myron McKinney OL 6'4" 300 Oklahoma City, OK
Named first-team all-state by the Oklahoman as a senior.

Russell Okung OL 6'4" 250 Fort Bend, TX
Named first-team All-District 24 Class 5A as a senior.

Anthony Parks WR 6'0" 190 Olathe, KS
Named first-team All-Jayhawk Conference at Bulter County (Kan.) CC.

Quencey Patrick DT 6'3" 265 Columbus, GA
Recorded 112 tackles, 13 sacks and three forced fumbles as a senior.

Trent Perkins OL 6'5" 285 Alice, TX
Named Bay Area and District Offensive Lineman of the Year as senior.

Dantrell Savage RB 5'11" 185 Columbus, GA
Rushed for 1,249 yards in nine games at Mississippi Gulf Coast CC in '05.

Jacob Secrest OL 6'5" 280 Stillwater, OK
Named first-team all-state by the OCA and the Oklahoman as a senior.

Al'Darius Thompson WR 5'11" 168 Mesquite, TX
Rushed for 1,086 yards and 19 TDs despite missing three games in '05.

Keith Toston ATH 6'1" 195 Angleton, TX
Finalist for Old Spice National Player of the Year. Rushed for 1,564 yards and 18 TDs as a senior and 1,529 yards and 15 TDs as a junior.

Donnell Williams LB 6'3" 210 Houston, TX
Enrolled at OSU in January. Recorded 130 tackles and two INTs in '05.

Artrell Woods ATH 6'1" 185 Bryan, TX
Limited by injury as a senior. Led HS basketball team in scoring.

National Forecast **7** | Big 12 South Prediction **2nd**

Mack Brown has rarely been faulted for his recruiting. But when it came to attracting top high school quarterbacks to Texas while Vince Young was going crazy legs and ultimately precision arm on opposing defenses, Brown might as well have been recruiting to Siberia U.

He tried to get a high-profile quarterback in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 recruiting classes. He went 0-for. Brown went after Rhett Bomar (who signed with Oklahoma), Bobby Reid (Oklahoma State), Xavier Lee (Florida State), Kyle Wright (Miami), Mark Sanchez (USC) and Ryan Perrilloux (LSU). All said thanks but no thanks.

Now, Brown finds himself trying to defend the national championship and the nation's longest winning streak (20 games) with a quarterback who has never taken a college snap.

"We've told our young quarterbacks that we want to defend the national title and that we believe in them," Brown says. "They have a lot of talent around them. So we're not asking them to go win games for us. We simply want them to play their role."

Quarterbacks The fact that Brown came out of the spring with no clear favorite at quarterback was good news and bad news.

Redshirt freshman Colt McCoy and true freshman Jevan Snead made great progress in learning the offense, making reads and taking command of the huddle. The bad news is that there was no separation, and they may be sharing the job to start the season.

That will remind many Longhorn fans of one of the more painful and divisive times in recent Texas history — the Chris Simms-Major Applewhite era.

The hope is that one of the quarterbacks will look more comfortable than the other against North Texas on Sept. 2. If that's the case, the Longhorns will have one signal-caller to unify the offense before their next game, when Ohio State rolls into Austin.

Another true freshman, Sherrod Harris of Arlington Bowie, will fight with McCoy and Snead for the job. With McCoy having had a year in the offense already and Snead enrolling in January and going through spring drills, Harris has catching up to do.

Running Backs The Longhorns lost their leading rusher in Young, who had 1,050 yards and 12 touchdowns on the ground last year. But Texas returns 2,284 yards and 41 TDs — with Jamaal Charles (878 yards, 11 TDs), Ramonce Taylor (513 yards, 12 TDs), Selvin Young (461 yards, 8 TDs) and Henry Melton (432 yards, 10 TDs) in the backfield.

Taylor was basically booted from spring football by Brown as a message to get serious about his academics after skipping a few classes. Taylor is expected back, but it's no guarantee. Charles appears to be a megastar in the making after averaging a team-best 7.4 yards per carry. Still, Brown can't deny the productivity of Taylor (6.8 ypc), Selvin Young (4.8 ypc) and Melton (5.0 ypc).

Melton tried moving to defensive end in the spring. But after he dropped down to 270 pounds, coaches loved him so much at running back that his days on defense are probably over.

After a good run of fullbacks, including Ricky Brown, Will Matthews and Ahmard Hall, Texas has no heir apparent at the position.

NUMBERS GAME

14 Texas has won 14 straight, and 26 of its last 27 games at opponents' home stadiums. UT has Big 12 road games at Nebraska, Texas Tech and Kansas State in 2006.

Receivers Last year's biggest question mark is now one of the team's biggest strengths.

Gone is David Thomas, the school's all-time receptions, yards and TDs leader among tight ends. But wideouts Limas Sweed, Billy Pittman and Quan Cosby all became go-to players in 2005 and figure to build on that success this season.

Sweed's confidence soared after an acrobatic, game-winning TD grab at Ohio State. Pittman finished the year second in the nation in yards per catch (22.1), and Cosby became a reliable target in key situations.

Nate Jones, Myron Hardy, Jordan Shipley and George Walker are fighting for the fourth receiver spot.

At tight end, senior Neale Tweedie, a sturdy blocker with sure hands, and redshirt freshman Jermichael Finley, who can stretch the field but needs to work on blocking, will attempt to replace Thomas.

Offensive Linemen Texas has three returning starters on the line, including all-star candidate and senior right tackle Justin Blalock, who considered jumping to the NFL.

The left side appears solid with tackle Tony Hills, who played extensively last season as a backup to Jonathan Scott. Guard Kasey Studdard is an overachiever with a mean streak, while center Lyle Sendlein is still scratching the surface of his talent.

Fighting for the job at right guard are redshirt freshmen Chris Hall and Charlie Tanner as well as sophomore Cedric Dockery, the younger brother of former Longhorn and current Washington Redskin Derrick Dockery.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE LONGHORNS

Even more than his playmaking ability, Vince Young's leadership will be missed. In addition to playing his best when the circumstances were the worst, Young reached out to teammates. Both sides of the ball depended on him. With a first-time college quarterback taking the snaps, how will players react to an interception late in a tight game against a foe like Ohio State? Will the team panic or play with the same confident swagger Young gave them? The offensive line is solid. Running back and receiver should also be strengths. A second straight year under co-defensive coordinator Gene Chizik shouldn't be discounted. Texas had three defensive coordinators in three seasons before 2006. The secondary is talented but thin and must find a replacement for Thorpe Award-winning strong safety Michael Huff. Like Young, Huff had uncoachable instincts. The front seven on defense is deep and loaded thanks to tackles Frank Okam, Roy Miller and Derek Lokey and ends Brian Robison, Tim Crowder and Brian Orakpo. This defense needs to be a dominating unit capable of carrying the offense until its young quarterbacks settle down. A new kicker and punter are potential headaches. Short kickoffs have been a problem.

Michael Griffin

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	North Texas	W
S.	**9**	**Ohio State**	*
S.	16	#Rice	W
S.	23	Iowa State	W
S.	30	Sam Houston State	W
O.	**7**	**%Oklahoma**	*
O.	14	Baylor	W
O.	21	at Nebraska	W
O.	28	at Texas Tech	W
N.	4	Oklahoma State	W
N.	11	at Kansas State	W
N.	24	Texas A&M	W
		#Reliant Stadium: Houston, TX	
		%Dallas, TX	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Charles, Griffin: Chris Covatta

Texas RB
Jamaal Charles

Defensive Linemen It's hard to imagine losing All-American and Lombardi finalist Rod Wright as well as Larry Dibbles and having your defensive line improve. But that's what coaches think will happen this season.

The emergence of sophomore Roy Miller and junior Derek Lokey at nose tackle has allowed explosive junior Frank Okam to move from nose to the 3-technique (lined up on the outside shoulder of the guard). Okam wants to be among the Big 12's sack leaders this season, and the UT coaches believe he will be the school's next big NFL talent at defensive tackle.

Senior ends Brian Robison and Tim Crowder and sophomores Brian Orakpo and Chris Brown may finally give Texas a double-digit sacker for the first time since 1999.

Linebackers Co-defensive coordinator Gene Chizik finally has the kind of depth and speed he craves at this position.

"We run better and are faster at linebacker than we've been since we got here," says Brown. "We think we can be really good in the front seven."

Rashad Bobino has moved from weak side to middle linebacker, replacing Aaron Harris, an All-Big 12 performer. Robert Killebrew will now play on the weak side, where he can keep blitzing after emerging as a pass-rushing force last season. Drew Kelson proved he can play on the strong side, where he'll be lined up on tight ends and slot receivers, by staying step-for-step on pass routes with USC's Reggie Bush.

There is depth thanks to rising star redshirt freshman middle linebacker Roddrick Muckelroy and true freshman outside linebacker Sergio Kindle, a January enrollee and one of the top recruits in a banner class.

Defensive Backs Helping to ease the losses of NFL-bound corner Cedric Griffin and Thorpe Award-winning safety Michael Huff is the return of three talented veterans — corners Aaron Ross and Tarell Brown and safety Michael Griffin.

Michael Griffin, who had a huge interception in the Rose Bowl, will probably stay in the free safety role he had last year.

Texas coaches are nervous about who will replace Huff at strong safety — the quarterback of the secondary. Ross has gotten reps at the position, but he is probably the team's best cover corner and may need to remain outside. Marcus Griffin, the twin brother of Michael Griffin, is the likely replacement for Huff, although coaches are hoping long, rangy junior Erick Jackson can make a push for playing time at safety in the fall.

Specialists Gone are kicker David Pino and punter Richmond McGee. Texas will have someone kicking field goals with no college experience — a huge area of concern.

Texas may start true freshman Hunter Lawrence at kicker. Left-footed punter Greg Johnson, a freshman All-American at Vanderbilt in '02 who has been slow to blossom, will probably punt and kick off. Redshirt freshman Trevor Gerland will battle for both jobs.

On return duty, Ross is back after taking two punts for touchdowns in 2005, while Taylor had a 29.4-yard average on kick returns.

Brian Robison

RISING STAR

Roy Miller, a 6'2", 300-pound sophomore defensive tackle from Killeen, may end up being the key to the entire defense. Miller had only 10 tackles as a true freshman in 2005. But his emergence at nose tackle in the spring overwhelmed coaches and drew comparisons to a young Casey Hampton.

KEY LONGHORNS

Justin Blalock, T
His saying no to the NFL means O-line might be as good as last year's.

Jamaal Charles, RB
Sprinter's speed and 7.4-yard average signal he's UT's next big thing.

Limas Sweed, WR
A key leader for young quarterbacks, he can stretch defenses.

Frank Okam, DT
Wants to be among the Big 12's sack leaders this season.

Michael Griffin, S
Wants to keep Thorpe Award in Austin.

KEY LOSSES

Vince Young, QB
More than his 30–2 record, he was the heart and soul of a national title.

David Thomas, TE
Consistent, durable, productive leader.

Michael Huff, S
Uncanny instincts allowed him to make plays and line up the defense.

Cedric Griffin, CB
Gave UT's secondary a big dose of hard-hitting toughness.

Rod Wright, DT
Didn't have big numbers his last two seasons, but a key vocal leader.

Larry Smith

SCOUTING THE LONGHORNS

Opposing coaches size up Texas: "It's hard to imagine they'll be as explosive as they were last year. Vince Young could really take a game over at any moment and carried that team on his back in the Rose Bowl. They're going to have to play a freshman quarterback, and I think they'd be better off choosing one than rotating quarterbacks. That didn't work out really well when they tried it before (Chris Simms and Major Applewhite)....This team is going to have a different personality. They've got some good players coming back on the offensive line and they're absolutely loaded at running back. Selvin Young, Jamaal Charles and Ramonce Taylor would all start for any top 25 team in the country. They can hurt you in a lot of different ways....The defense is going to be outstanding, even after losing (defensive tackle) Rod Wright and (safety) Michael Huff. They'll bring a lot of pressure with (defensive ends) Tim Crowder and Brian Robison and their cornerbacks can stay with anybody. I don't think they'll miss a beat."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (5)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
SE	**4**	**Limas Sweed**	**Jr.**
FL	**5**	**Billy Pittman**	**Jr.**
LT	79	Tony Hills	Jr.
LG	**64**	**Kasey Studdard**	**Sr.**
C	**62**	**Lyle Sendlein**	**Sr.**
RG	55	Cedric Dockery	So.
RT	**63**	**Justin Blalock**	**Sr.**
TE	87	Neale Tweedie	Sr.
QB	12	Colt McCoy	Fr.
FB	3	Chris Ogbonnaya	So.
RB	25	Jamaal Charles	So.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
SE	23	Myron Hardy	So.
FL	6	Quan Cosby	So.
LT	70	Greg Dolan	So.
LG	52	Charlie Tanner	Fr.
C	67	Dallas Griffin	Jr.
RG	71	Chris Hall	Fr.
RT	74	Adam Ulatoski	Fr.
TE	16	Jermichael Finley	Fr.
QB	7	Jevan Snead	Fr.
FB	32	Marcus Myers	Sr.
RB	22	Selvin Young	Sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**39**	**Brian Robison**	**Sr.**
NT	99	Roy Miller	So.
DT	**97**	**Frank Okam**	**Jr.**
DE	**80**	**Tim Crowder**	**Sr.**
SLB	**40**	**Robert Killebrew**	**Jr.**
MLB	**44**	**Rashad Bobino**	**So.**
WLB	4	Drew Kelson	Jr.
CB	31	Aaron Ross	Sr.
CB	**5**	**Tarell Brown**	**Sr.**
SS	26	Marcus Griffin	Jr.
FS	**27**	**Michael Griffin**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	98	Brian Orakpo	So.
NT	96	Derek Lokey	Jr.
DT	94	Thomas Marshall	Jr.
DE	48	Chris Brown	So.
SLB	2	Sergio Kindle	Fr.
MLB	38	Roddrick Muckelroy	Fr.
WLB	43	Jeremy Campbell	So.
CB	28	Brandon Foster	Jr.
CB	29	Ryan Palmer	So.
SS	18	Matt Melton	Sr.
FS	6	Erick Jackson	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	97	Greg Johnson	Sr.
P	97	Greg Johnson	Sr.
KR	11	Ramonce Taylor	Jr.
PR	31	Aaron Ross	Sr.

2006 TEXAS ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
18	Buchanan, Will	QB	6'1"	180	So.	Austin, TX
22	Fragoso, Adair	QB	5'11"	215	Sr.	El Paso, TX
12	McCoy, Colt	QB	6'3"	195	Fr.	Tuscola, TX
13	McCoy, Matthew	QB	6'3"	195	Sr.	Dallas, TX
7	Snead, Jevan	QB	6'3"	215	Fr.	Stephenville, TX
14	Torres, Freddy	QB	6'1"	190	So.	Pecos, TX
16	Zepeda, Gilbert	QB	6'0"	186	Jr.	Pharr, TX

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
12	Areias, Sam	RB	5'7"	201	Sr.	Los Banos, CA
23	Carvajal, Jaime	RB	5'4"	147	Jr.	Taft, TX
25	Charles, Jamaal	RB	6'1"	190	So.	Port Arthur, TX
28	Hobbs, Antwaun	RB	5'7"	180	Sr.	Garland, TX
26	Lane, Stephen	RB	6'0"	185	So.	Tyler, TX
37	Melton, Henry	RB	6'3"	270	So.	Grapevine, TX
32	Myers, Marcus	RB	6'3"	250	Sr.	Austin, TX
3	Ogbonnaya, Chris	RB	6'1"	220	So.	Missouri City, TX
11	Taylor, Ramonce	RB/WR	5'11"	195	Jr.	Temple, TX
22	Young, Selvin	RB	6'0"	215	Sr.	Houston, TX

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
82	Aune, Coy	WR	6'2"	195	Jr.	Austin, TX
6	Cosby, Quan	WR	5'11"	200	So.	Mart, TX
16	Finley, Jermichael	TE	6'5"	220	Fr.	Diboll, TX
23	Hardy, Myron	WR	6'2"	210	So.	Austin, TX
83	Hogan, Steven	TE	6'5"	255	Jr.	Sugar Land, TX
9	Jones, Nate	WR	6'2"	195	Jr.	Texarkana, TX
89	Kendall, Daniel	WR	6'2"	185	Sr.	Houston, TX
25	McCoy, Mark	WR	6'2"	188	Sr.	Dallas, TX
88	McWhorter, Mac	TE	6'4"	226	Fr.	Austin, TX
85	Peters, Christoph	WR	6'3"	220	Sr.	Aachen, Germany
5	Pittman, Billy	WR	6'0"	198	Jr.	Cameron, TX
86	Portley, Kirby	TE	6'2"	232	Sr.	Kilgore, TX
8	Shipley, Jordan	WR	6'0"	184	So.	Burnet, TX
13	Smith, Greg	TE	6'4"	238	Fr.	Montgomery, TX
4	Sweed, Limas	WR	6'5"	219	Jr.	Brenham, TX
27	Tefteller, Clayton	WR	6'0"	175	Sr.	Gilmer, TX
87	Tweedie, Neale	TE	6'5"	265	Sr.	Lucas, TX
86	Ullman, Peter	TE	6'4"	252	So.	Austin, TX
84	Walker, George	WR	6'3"	205	So.	Houston, TX

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
63	Blalock, Justin	T	6'4"	329	Sr.	Plano, TX
65	Burnette, Buck	OL	6'3"	295	Fr.	Wimberley, TX
55	Dockery, Cedric	G	6'4"	315	So.	Garland, TX
70	Dolan, Greg	T	6'7"	290	So.	Austin, TX
67	Griffin, Dallas	C	6'4"	275	Jr.	Katy, TX
71	Hall, Chris	OL	6'4"	280	Fr.	Irving, TX
79	Hills, Tony	T	6'6"	295	Jr.	Houston, TX
62	Sendlein, Lyle	C	6'5"	305	Sr.	Scottsdale, AZ
64	Studdard, Kasey	G	6'3"	305	Sr.	Lone Tree, CO
52	Tanner, Charlie	G/C	6'4"	280	Fr.	Austin, TX
54	Taylor, Michael	C	5'11"	219	So.	LaMarque, TX
74	Ulatoski, Adam	T	6'8"	290	Fr.	Southlake, TX
66	Valdez, Brett	G/C	6'4"	305	Sr.	Brownwood, TX

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
48	Brown, Christopher	DE	6'3"	210	So.	Texarkana, TX
80	Crowder, Tim	DE	6'4"	270	Sr.	Tyler, TX
91	Janszen, Tully	DT	6'3"	280	Sr.	Keller, TX
95	Lewis, Aaron	DE	6'4"	275	So.	Albuquerque, NM
96	Lokey, Derek	DT	6'2"	275	Jr.	Denton, TX
94	Marshall, Thomas	DT	6'6"	293	Jr.	Dallas, TX
52	Michner, Cory	DE	6'0"	210	So.	St. Louis, MO
99	Miller, Roy	DT	6'2"	300	So.	Killeen, TX
97	Okam, Frank	DT	6'5"	315	Jr.	Dallas, TX
98	Orakpo, Brian	DE	6'4"	238	So.	Houston, TX
45	Redwine, Nic	DE	6'3"	225	So.	Tyler, TX
39	Robison, Brian	DE	6'3"	275	Sr.	Splendora, TX
61	Solis, Jaicus	DT	6'4"	250	Sr.	San Angelo, TX
49	Tiemann, Luke	DE	6'2"	219	Jr.	Pflugerville, TX

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
44	Bobino, Rashad	LB	5'11"	230	So.	West Texas City, TX
35	Bondy, Todd	LB	6'0"	210	Jr.	Southlake, TX
43	Campbell, Jeremy	LB	6'2"	220	So.	Richardson, TX
33	Derry, Scott	LB	6'3"	230	Jr.	Pearland, TX
21	Foreman, Eric	LB	6'4"	230	Jr.	Corrigan, TX
1	Gatewood, Tyrell	LB	6'2"	210	Jr.	Tyler, TX
4	Kelson, Drew	LB	6'2"	215	Jr.	Houston, TX
40	Killebrew, Robert	LB	6'2"	230	Jr.	Spring, TX
2	Kindle, Sergio	LB	6'4"	225	Fr.	Dallas, TX
59	Kugler, Chad	LB	6'2"	220	So.	Richardson, TX
38	Muckelroy, Roddrick	LB	6'2"	230	Fr.	Hallsville, TX
46	Peterman, Julian	LB	6'0"	200	So.	Schertz, TX

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
5	Brown, Tarell	CB	6'0"	200	Sr.	Mesquite, TX
21	Flath, Michael	S	5'9"	180	Jr.	Arcadia, CA
28	Foster, Brandon	CB	5'9"	180	Jr.	Arlington, TX
26	Griffin, Marcus	S	6'0"	195	Jr.	Austin, TX
27	Griffin, Michael	S	6'0"	205	Sr.	Austin, TX
6	Jackson, Erick	S/CB	6'2"	185	Jr.	Cedar Hill, TX
18	Melton, Matt	S	6'0"	210	Sr.	Flint, TX
24	Moench, Ryan	DB	6'0"	185	So.	Austin, TX
10	Oduegwu, Ishie	S	5'10"	195	Fr.	Denton, TX
29	Palmer, Ryan	DB	5'10"	185	So.	Arlington, TX
31	Ross, Aaron	CB	6'1"	192	Sr.	Tyler, TX

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
39	Bailey, Ryan	P/K	6'2"	180	So.	Austin, TX
19	Campos, Benjamin	K	5'10"	192	Sr.	New Braunfels, TX
17	Gerland, Trevor	P/K	6'2"	190	Fr.	Katy, TX
58	Harvey, William	LS	5'11"	212	So.	Houston, TX
97	Johnson, Greg	P/K	6'1"	195	Sr.	Lilburn, GA
43	Moore, Justin	P/K	6'2"	185	So.	Houston, TX

Head Coach: Mack Brown • Record at School: 83–19 (8 years) • Career Record: 169–93–1 (22 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Davis • Co-Defensive Coordinators: Gene Chizik, Duane Akina • Austin, Texas • Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (80,082)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Vince Young	325	212	3,036	26	10
Matt Nordgren	11	6	47	0	1

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Vince Young	155	1,050	6.8	12
Jamaal Charles	**119**	**878**	**7.4**	**11**
Ramonce Taylor	**76**	**513**	**6.8**	**12**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
David Thomas	50	613	12.3	5
Limas Sweed	**36**	**545**	**15.1**	**5**
Billy Pittman	**34**	**750**	**22.1**	**5**

Kicking: David Pino, 14-18 FGs, 71-77 XPs, 113 points

Tackles: **Michael Griffin, 124;** Michael Huff, 109

Sacks: **Brian Robison, 7**

Interceptions: **Michael Griffin, 3; Aaron Ross, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

Tim Crowder

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Worthy heir Redshirt freshman tight end Jermichael Finley emerged as a rising star in the spring. He's not shying away from the legacy left by record-breaking tight end David Thomas. Finley switched from No. 85 to Thomas' No. 16.

Catching on Receivers Myron Hardy and Jordan Shipley both had a good spring and should provide depth at wideout. Hardy played in four games as a freshman then redshirted last season. Shipley, one of the most prolific pass catchers in Texas prep history, has missed his first two seasons with injuries.

Vince Vibe Much was made of the Vince Vibe on the Texas team last year because of the dancing and rapping that Vince Young did in the locker room and on the bus to games and practices. Offensive tackle Tony Hills has assumed Young's role as flow session leader for the Longhorns.

Restless without Young Mack Brown believes that Young's early departure has caused everyone to push harder. "Guys might have gotten a little complacent knowing that Vince was back," Brown says. "Now, they realize they all have to elevate their own games if we want to play for the national title again."

Brothers in arms Guard Kasey Studdard and center Lyle Sendlein are best friends who do everything the same: fight like brothers, dress like slobs and rarely shave. They also both have fathers who played at Texas and then in the NFL.

On track Running back Jamaal Charles, defensive end Brian Robison and kicker/punter Trevor Gerland combined to score 20 points for the Texas track team at the Big 12 indoor championship. Charles earned 11 points, finishing fourth in the 60-meter dash and third in the 200 meters. Robison earned eight points for finishing second in the shot put, and Gerland earned one point for finishing eighth in the 60-meter hurdles.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 13–0 (8–0 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	UL Lafayette	W	60– 3	82,519
Sept. 10	at Ohio State	W	25–22	105,565
Sept. 17	Rice	W	51–10	83,055
Oct. 1	at Missouri	W	51–20	57,231
Oct. 8	Oklahoma	W	45–12	75,452
Oct. 15	Colorado	W	42–17	83,474
Oct. 22	Texas Tech	W	52–17	83,919
Oct. 29	at Oklahoma State	W	47–28	48,035
Nov. 5	at Baylor	W	62– 0	44,783
Nov. 12	Kansas	W	66–14	83,696
Nov. 25	at Texas A&M	W	40–29	86,617
Dec. 3	%Colorado	W	70– 3	71,107
Jan. 4	#USC	W	41–38	93,986
	%Big 12 Championship			
	#Rose Bowl			

Larry Smith

2006 RECRUITING

This will be an especially good recruiting class if quarterbacks Jevan Snead or Sherrod Harris develop into impact players. That statement will also be true if defensive backs Chykie Brown and Deon Beasley are able to catch on quickly. Texas is scary thin at both positions. The Longhorns signed only one quarterback from 2003-05 (Colt McCoy) and were desperate to get two quarterbacks in this class. While Harris was finishing up high school, Snead enrolled at Texas early in January and went through spring, impressing coaches with his arm strength and command of the offense. Beasley wanted to play receiver coming out of high school, but he may realize there is immediate opportunity at cornerback. Coaches need Beasley and Brown to be big-time defensive backs because Texas loses three senior starters (Michael Griffin, Tarell Brown and Aaron Ross) after this season. There is no proven depth behind them. Another early enrollee, linebacker Sergio Kindle, is fast with a mean streak and should see playing time right away. So too should defensive tackle Ben Alexander and defensive ends Lamarr Houston and Eddie Jones. Any other immediate contributors would be gravy.

Ben Alexander DT 6'0" 298 Anderson, SC
Recorded 302 total tackles, 68 tackles for a loss and 15 sacks for his career.

Deon Beasley WR/DB 5'10" 168 Orange, TX
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Had 1,928 passing yards and 1,468 rushing yards and 23 TDs as a senior, 801 receiving yards and 17 TDs as a junior.

Chykie Brown DB 6'1" 180 Houston, TX
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by The AP and TSWA as a senior. Had 10 interceptions and 19 PBU in his career.

Buck Burnette OL 6'3" 295 Wimberley, TX
Father, Grady, blocked for Eric Dickerson and Craig James at SMU.

Antwan Cobb RB/LB 6'0" 205 Pflugerville, TX
Named District 15 Class 5A Offensive MVP after rushing for 1,670 yards and 24 TDs as a senior. Born in Heidelburg, Germany.

Dustin Earnest LB 6'3" 217 Texarkana, TX
Named District 12 Class 4A Defensive MVP, first-team Class 4A All-State by The AP and U.S. Army All-American Bowl participant as a senior.

Brian Ellis DE 6'5" 250 Grand Prairie, TX
Named MVP of Fort Worth Nike Camp. Recorded nine sacks and 16 TFL as a senior.

Sherrod Harris QB 6'3" 212 Arlington, TX
Recorded 5,608 total yards (4,321 passing; 1,287 rushing) and 52 total touchdowns over three seasons at quarterback. Scored 1310 on SAT.

James Henry DB 6'2" 205 Schertz, TX
Named Greater San Antonio MVP, District 25 Class 5A Offensive MVP and first-team Class 5A All-State by the TSWA and The AP as a senior.

Lamarr Houston DE 6'2" 257 Colorado Springs, CO
Named Colorado Gatorade Player of the Year, Parade All-American and second-team All-American by EA Sports as a senior.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Defensive Linemen	4	Texas	23
Offensive Linemen	4	Colorado	1
Defensive Backs	3	South Carolina	1
Linebackers	3		
Wide Receivers	3		
Quarterbacks	2		
Running Backs	2		
Tight Ends	2		
Athletes	1		
Kickers	1		

Eddie Jones DE 6'3" 240 Kilgore, TX
Named first-team All-USA by USA Today and first-team All-American by EA Sports. Named District 17 Class 4A MVP as a junior and senior.

Robert Joseph DB 6'2" 195 Port Arthur, TX
Named Defensive Player of the Year by the Port Arthur News.

Sergio Kindle LB 6'4" 225 Dallas, TX
Named Old Spice Red Zone National Player of the Year, Parade Ironman and first-team All-America by Parade, EA Sports and USA Today. Named Class 4A Defensive Player of the Year by The AP and TSWA. Recorded 55 tackles for a loss, 5,632 rushing yards and 86 TDs in career.

Hunter Lawrence K 6'0" 180 Boerne, TX
Named first-team Class 4A All-State by The AP as a junior and senior. Connected on 32-of-44 field goals over final two seasons.

Josh Marshall WR 6'4" 205 Arlington, TX
114 catches for 1,459 yards over final two seasons. Father, Tank, played at Texas A&M and with NFL's Oilers and Jets.

SPOTLIGHT ON...JEVAN SNEAD

Quarterback • 6'3" • 215 • Stephenville, TX

Linebacker Sergio Kindle's size and strength are talked about by teammates the way Oklahoma players talked about Adrian Peterson when he arrived at OU. At 6'4" and 225 pounds, Kindle is backing up Robert Killebrew at strong-side linebacker but will probably see plenty of action. Still, it's hard to imagine any freshman having a greater impact for Texas than quarterback Jevan Snead. Snead bypassed the second half of his senior year in high school to enroll early and take part in spring drills. Snead amazed coaches with his ability to grasp and run the offense in 15 spring practices. Snead and Colt McCoy both started four drives in the Orange-White game. Snead led the offense on two TD drives against the second-team defense, including a 31-yard scoring strike to tight end Jermichael Finley. More impressive was a touchdown drive in which Snead went 6-of-6 passing, overcame a 10-yard loss on a fumbled pitch and twice converted fourth down with perfect passes. McCoy led a drive to a field goal against the first-team defense.

Vondrell McGee RB 5'10" 180 Longview, TX
Parade All-American. Named District 12 Class 5A Offensive MVP and All-East Texas MVP.

Britt Mitchell TE 6'5" 250 Kilgore, TX
Honorable mention all-state by The AP and TSWA as a junior and senior. Recorded 80 knockdown blocks.

Steve Moore OL 6'5" 275 Houston, TX
Named second-team Class 5A All-State by The AP as a senior. Had 30 pancake blocks on the year.

Jared Norton LB 6'3" 236 Rowlett, TX
Named Class 5A Def. Player of the Year and Linebacker of the Year. Tallied 326 tackles, 18 sacks during his final two seasons.

Philip Payne WR 6'2" 205 Garland, TX
Recorded 907 receiving yards, 591 rushing yards and 20 total TDs over final two seasons.

Greg Smith TE 6'4" 238 Montgomery, TX
Two-time All-District 18 Class 4A in football, basketball, track and soccer.

Roy Watts Jr. OL 6'6" 295 Houston, TX
Named second-team all-state by The AP and TSWA as a senior. Also his team's deep snapper.

J'Marcus Webb OL 6'8" 280 Mesquite, TX
Parade All-American allowed just three sacks in 472 pass attempts over two seasons.

Montre Webber WR 6'3" 190 Hearne, TX
Named first-team Class 2A All-State by The AP. Recorded 108 catches for 2,344 yards, on 21.7 yards per catch, and 33 TDs over his career (one TD every 3.3 receptions).

National Forecast **33** | Big 12 South Prediction **4th**

Sitting inside his sprawling office atop the Bright Football Complex, Texas A&M head coach Dennis Franchione leans back and instinctively grimaces when asked to recall the gruesome details of 2005.

The injury report last season often resembled the length of a novel instead of a press release note, as eight A&M players were lost to season-ending injuries. Among scholarship players, the Aggies lost more than 70 combined games because of injuries.

Emotional scars, however, may have been even more painful than the physical wounds. After a 5–2 start, the Aggies dropped their last four games, including blowout losses at home against Iowa State and on the road at Texas Tech. The end result was a 5–6 season that included more dubious distinctions than memorable moments. For example, the traditionally defensive-dominant Aggies finished 107th nationally in total defense and 94th in scoring defense. And among the 117 Division I-A schools, no one was worse against the pass than Texas A&M.

"You don't forget the frustrations of last year," says Franchione, who is now entering his fourth year as the Aggies' head coach. "I couldn't if I tried. I may never forget watching Chad Schroeder go down (with a broken leg). He was the fourth wide receiver we lost for the year, and I remember thinking, 'When will this ever end?' So, no, I haven't forgotten last year, and our players haven't forgotten, either.

"But I don't have to bring it up with them for motivational purposes. They're already motivated, and they're accountable. Besides, this is a different team with a different makeup, and it needs to be handled differently."

Indeed, "different" is the definitive word for the 2006 Aggies, beginning with the coaching staff. Franchione hired four new assistants, including defensive coordinator Gary Darnell and secondary coaches Bill Clay and Van Malone. The Aggies will also feature a new 4-2-5 defensive alignment and a new starting quarterback, Stephen McGee.

So, will all the differences from last year lead to different results in the win-loss column? Only time will tell.

Quarterbacks Perhaps no position on the A&M roster has a more different feel to it than quarterback, where the extremely talented — but sometimes brooding — Reggie McNeal has departed, leaving the offensive reins to McGee, a sophomore.

When McNeal went down in the third quarter of the 10th game last season, McGee energized the Aggies and their fans with six quarters of spirited performances against traditional Big 12 South powerhouses Oklahoma and Texas.

McGee is a talented passer, throwing for 8,256 yards in high school; he's also a strong runner, rushing for 175 yards in six quarters against OU and UT. But his most endearing quality may be his leadership skills. Whereas McNeal may have been the prototypical athlete at quarterback, McGee appears to be the ideal leader.

"He has more fun out there playing and charging up others than anybody on the field," Franchione says. "I say this with some trepidation of putting too much on him too quickly, but if I had to compare Stephen, I would say Alex Smith. He's not caught up in how we move the football; he's focused on whether or not we move it and win games."

NUMBERS GAME

17 Texas A&M ranked 17th in the nation in total offense last year. While the defense was often in disarray, the Aggies generated 442.3 yards per game last season.

Running Backs The Aggies feature numerous possibilities in the backfield, as last season's top two tailbacks, Courtney Lewis and Jorvorskie Lane, return. A&M also welcomes true freshman Mike Goodson, who may have been the top high school running back prospect in Texas, into the mix at tailback.

The speedy Lewis has been injury-plagued throughout his collegiate career, while Lane provides tremendous power and surprisingly quick feet for his 6'0", 287-pound frame. But Lane is not a breakaway threat, and Lewis has not proven to be durable enough to be considered a workhorse. So, it could be the explosive Goodson who eventually emerges as the premier ball carrier.

Brandon Leone is also a hard-nosed runner, while Chris Alexander is a steady blocker at fullback.

Receivers The good news regarding A&M's injury-riddled receiving corps last year was that the Aggies developed depth at the position, as youngsters Pierre Brown, Howard Morrow and Kerry Franks emerged as potential playmakers.

The better news for this season is that proven performers Tydrick Riley, Earvin Taylor and Chad Schroeder return, giving A&M a potentially explosive unit.

"Earvin is probably the best he's ever looked physically," McGee says. "Chad is explosive and all he does is score touchdowns. Getting Tydrick back is a big help, too. He's such a big, physical target. If I can just get those guys the ball, we should be able to move it. I'm really excited when I look around and see so many weapons."

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE AGGIES

Injury-riddled Texas A&M took a significant step backward in 2005, going from the Cotton Bowl to no bowl. With a favorable non-conference schedule, however, the '06 Aggies should come close to matching last year's overall win total before their first Big 12 game. A&M will be criticized for its non-conference scheduling, but it could provide a vital confidence boost. With a little seasoning, strong-armed sophomore quarterback Stephen McGee could be sensational. And with the return of big-play receivers Chad Schroeder, Tydrick Riley and Earvin Taylor, along with tight end Martellus Bennett, the offensive attack should be at least as explosive as last year, when A&M averaged more than 200 yards rushing and passing per game. But can the Aggies stop anyone? There is no shortage of talented youngsters in the secondary, although many of them were torched last year when A&M finished last nationally in pass defense. The Aggies feature an All-Big 12 candidate in linebacker Justin Warren, but A&M needs much more consistent production from its defensive line. Special teams is also an area of concern, as A&M must replace a dependable placekicker and find a return specialist. Still, the Aggies possess enough offensive firepower to return to a bowl. Whether or not it's a New Year's Day affair will depend on how much improvement can be made on defense.

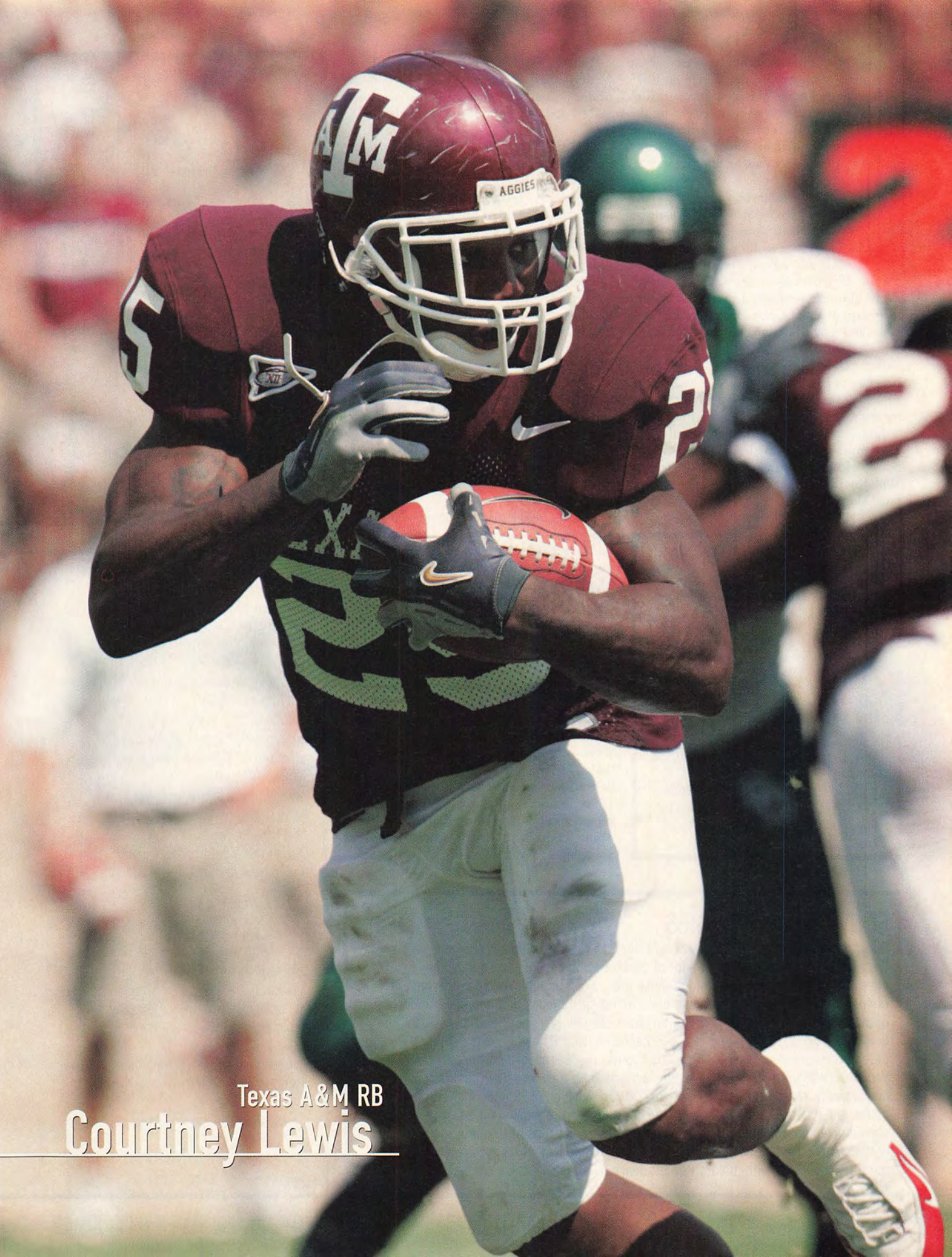
Justin Warren

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	The Citadel	W
S.	9	UL Lafayette	W
S.	16	#Army	W
S.	23	Louisiana Tech	W
S.	**30**	**Texas Tech**	*
O.	**7**	**at Kansas**	*
O.	14	Missouri	W
O.	21	at Oklahoma State	W
O.	28	at Baylor	W
N.	4	Oklahoma	L
N.	**11**	**Nebraska**	*
N.	24	at Texas	L
		#San Antonio, TX	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Lewis, McGee: Layne Murdoch



Texas A&M RB

Courtney Lewis

McGee's arsenal also includes one of the best all-around athletes on the roster in 6'7" sophomore tight end Martellus Bennett, who had 18 catches last year and also played for the Aggies' NCAA Tournament basketball team. With Bennett and Joey Thomas, the Aggies feature a strong pair of pass-catching tight ends.

Offensive Linemen Franchione is particularly pleased with the development of his offensive front, which returns four starters in Yemi Babalola, Corey Clark, Kirk Elder and Cody Wallace. That unit helped the Aggies finish in the top 20 nationally in fewest sacks allowed. A&M also features some depth up front with the return of senior Grant Dickey, junior Chris Yoder and redshirt freshman Michael Shumard.

Defensive linemen Some of the Aggies' struggles in pass defense were due to a lack of consistent pressure up front. That must change for the Aggies to make any major strides.

Junior Chris Harrington was probably the most consistent defensive lineman last year, and he should be a steady force this season. Sophomore Michael Bennett is also a promising youngster.

The Aggies need a bigger (and healthier) year from Red Bryant and Jason Jack, both of whom possess star potential if they can stay healthy and play up to their capabilities.

Linebackers The school that once referred to itself as "Linebacker U" is now so thin at the position that the Aggies are running a 4-2-5 defense that features only two starting linebackers. The good news, however, is that one of those linebackers, senior Justin Warren, is a legitimate first-team All-Big 12 prospect who makes plays from sideline-to-sideline.

The other starting spot could be manned by junior college transfer Mark Dodge. Redshirt freshman Matt Featherston, true freshman Anthony Lewis, junior Stephen Hodge and senior Nurahda Manning should also figure into the rotation.

Defensive Backs At least on paper, the Aggies appear to possess an improving secondary. Of course, when you are the nation's worst pass defense, there's nowhere to go but up.

"Last year, with our secondary, it was trial by error," says Franchione. "No, make that trial by fire."

The healthy return of Japhus Brown at safety could solidify things in a hurry. Melvin Bullitt and Devin Gregg also appear to be playmakers at safety, while speedy cornerbacks Marquis Carpenter and Danny Gorrer have lockdown potential. Arkeith Brown, Alton Dixon, Jordan Peterson, Brock Newton and Jordan Chambless are also quality athletes who could play a major role, although Chambless' football future is in some doubt because of his prospects as a professional baseball player.

Specialists The Aggies are hoping that either Layne Neumann or Richie Bean can fill the shoes — or the foot — of four-year placekicker Todd Pegram. A&M is also looking for a dependable return specialist after finishing 109th nationally in kickoff returns. One proven area is punter Justin Brantly, who broke Shane Lechler's freshman school record by averaging 43.2 yards per punt.

Stephen McGee

RISING STAR

It's been more than a decade since A&M signed a running back of Mike Goodson's caliber. Goodson was rated as the No. 1 running back prospect in Texas, and by season's end, it wouldn't be surprising to see him as the No. 1 tailback on the Aggies' depth chart.

KEY AGGIES

Stephen McGee, QB
Strong arm, hard-nosed runner and outstanding leader.

Justin Warren, LB
Terrific athlete who can make plays from sideline-to-sideline.

Earvin Taylor, WR
Perhaps the biggest of the Aggies' collection of big-play receivers.

Japhus Brown, S
Losing him to injury last year was particularly devastating.

Cody Wallace, OL
One of the most productive but underrated linemen in the Big 12.

KEY LOSSES

Reggie McNeal, QB
His overall athleticism made him a constant threat.

Jaxson Appel, S
He brought a warrior's mentality to a maligned defense.

Todd Pegram, K
Range wasn't remarkable, but his accuracy is hard to replace.

Jason Carter, WR
Could do a little bit of everything.

Lee Foliaki, LB
Had a nose for the football and feel for the game.

Layne Murdoch

SCOUTING THE AGGIES

Opposing coaches size up Texas A&M: "I don't know that Dennis Franchione was ever the right fit there, and he's got a lot of pressure on him. They were thoroughly overmatched on defense and didn't make many adjustments. You've got to have a lot of speed on defense in this league, and I'm not sure they've got enough of those kinds of players. (New defensive coordinator) Gary Darnell is a good football man, and he's doing the right thing by going to a 4-2-5 scheme. They'll have an extra safety to defend the spread defenses. They've got to get more pressure on the quarterback. You could really attack them vertically last year, and they lost their best defensive back (safety Jaxson Appel)....They didn't get as much out of Reggie McNeal last year and now he's gone, but Stephen McGee got a little bit of playing time last year, which should give him a head start this season....They've got tons of talent in the backfield with Courtney Lewis and Jorvorskie Lane, so I would expect them to really pound the football, especially with most of the offensive line back."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**14**	**Chad Schroeder**	**Sr.**
WR	17	Tydrick Riley	Sr.
WR	2	Earvin Taylor	Jr.
QT	**71**	**Yemi Babalola**	**So.**
QG	**64**	**Kirk Elder**	**Jr.**
C	**70**	**Cody Wallace**	**Jr.**
SG	77	Grant Dickey	Sr.
ST	**54**	**Corey Clark**	**Jr.**
TE	3	Martellus Bennett	So.
QB	7	Stephen McGee	So.
TB	**25**	**Courtney Lewis**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	5	Howard Morrow	So.
WR	8	Kerry Franks	Jr.
WR	6	Pierre Brown	So.
QT	72	Alex Kotzur	Sr.
QG	78	Michael Shumard	Fr.
C	63	Kevin Matthews	Fr.
SG	51	Chris Yoder	Jr.
ST	73	Travis Schneider	So.
TE	81	Joey Thomas	Jr
QB	19	Ty Branyon	Sr.
TB	11	Jorvorskie Lane	So.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**92**	**Chris Harrington**	**Jr.**
DT	35	Bryce Reed	Sr.
DT	**85**	**Red Bryant**	**Jr.**
DE	11	Michael Bennett	So.
LB	50	Mark Dodge	Jr.
LB	**10**	**Justin Warren**	**Sr.**
ROV	48	Arkeith Brown	So.
CB	4	Danny Gorrer	So.
CB	**40**	**Marquis Carpenter**	**Jr.**
SS	**33**	**Melvin Bullitt**	**Sr.**
FS	28	Japhus Brown	Jr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**89**	**Jason Jack**	**Jr.**
DT	95	Henry Smith	Jr.
DT	94	Marques Thornton	Sr.
DE	49	Cyril Obiozor	So.
LB	29	Stephen Hodge	Jr.
LB	41	Matt Featherston	Fr.
ROV	30	Chevar Bryson	Fr.
CB	27	Jordan Peterson	Fr.
CB	34	Marcus Gold	Fr.
SS	16	Alton Dixon	So.
FS	26	Devin Gregg	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	32	Layne Neumann	Sr.
P	44	Justin Brantly	So.
KR	8	Kerry Franks	Jr.
PR	5	Jordan Chambless	So.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 TEXAS A&M ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
19	Branyon, Ty	QB	6'3"	214	Sr.	Austin, TX
16	McCoy, Jamie	QB	6'3"	216	Fr.	Midland, TX
7	McGee, Stephen	QB	6'4"	207	So.	Burnet, TX
18	Sanders, T.J.	QB	6'3"	211	Jr.	Goddard, KS
10	Wood, Jeff	QB	6'5"	210	Fr.	Houston, TX

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
24	Alexander, Chris	FB	5'11"	246	Jr.	Humble, TX
41	Anderson, David	TB	5'8"	188	Sr.	Plano, TX
40	Arrington, Brandon	TB	5'9"	195	So.	Cedar Hill, TX
35	Axel, Jeremy	FB	5'11"	235	Jr.	Missouri City, TX
39	Boothe, Greg	FB	6'1"	221	Jr.	LaGrange, TX
11	Lane, Jorvorskie	TB	6'0"	287	So.	Lufkin, TX
21	Leone, Brandon	TB	6'0"	223	Sr.	Spring, TX
25	Lewis, Courtney	TB	6'0"	197	Sr.	Houston, TX
38	O'Bryant, Ryan	FB	5'11"	227	Fr.	Houston, TX
26	Smith, Keondra	TB	5'9"	207	Fr.	Tyler, TX
32	Taylor, Samson	TB	5'11"	206	So.	The Woodlands, TX

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
3	Bennett, Martellus	TE	6'7"	248	So.	Alief, TX
88	Beyer, Cody	WR	6'1"	176	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
85	Brawley, Blane	WR	6'0"	178	Fr.	Denison, TX
46	Brown, Jeremy	WR	6'2"	203	So.	Ft. Worth, TX
6	Brown, Pierre	WR	6'1"	203	So.	Duncanville, TX
80	Calloway, Lorenzo	WR	5'9"	167	So.	Houston, TX
49	Carter, Anthony	WR	6'1"	196	So.	Jacksboro, TX
20	Corey, Michael	WR	6'3"	209	Jr.	Delta, UT
8	Franks, Kerry	WR	5'10"	185	Jr.	Orange, TX
86	Gbunblee, Amos	TE	6'5"	256	So.	Cypress, TX
89	George, Eric	WR	6'0"	161	Fr.	College Station, TX
98	Key, Andrew	TE	6'3"	246	So.	Dallas, TX
29	Mach, Daniel	WR	5'11"	198	So.	Garland, TX
5	Morrow, Howard	WR	6'0"	215	So.	Keller, TX
82	Perry, Antonio	WR	6'1"	175	Fr.	Hammond, LA
33	Pietsch, Zach	WR	5'11"	175	Jr.	Giddings, TX
87	Ray, Jason	WR	6'4"	202	Sr.	McGregor, TX
17	Riley, Tydrick	WR	6'3"	244	Sr.	Crockett, TX
14	Schroeder, Chad	WR	6'1"	178	Sr.	Austin, TX
2	Taylor, Earvin	WR	6'3"	244	Jr.	Mission, TX
81	Thomas, Joey	TE	6'6"	248	Jr.	Austin, TX
91	Vaughn, Ryan	TE	6'4"	247	Jr.	College Station, TX
83	Ward, Terrance	WR	5'10"	205	So.	Wharton, TX
84	Williamson, Drew	WR	6'2"	196	So.	Southlake, TX

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
71	Babalola, Yemi	OL	6'4"	308	So.	Bryan, TX
66	Bryan, Kevin	OL	6'3"	290	So.	Lufkin, TX
54	Clark, Corey	OL	6'6"	311	Jr.	Spring Branch, TX
77	Dickey, Grant	OL	6'5"	313	Sr.	Tyler, TX
64	Elder, Kirk	OL	6'4"	312	Jr.	Klein, TX
79	Frost, Robbie	OL	6'6"	304	Fr.	Houston, TX
56	Grimes, Lee	OL	6'6"	326	Fr.	Brownwood, TX
72	Kotzur, Alex	OL	6'5"	290	Sr.	Houston, TX
63	Matthews, Kevin	OL	6'3"	296	Fr.	Sugar Land, TX
68	Nail, Kyle	OL	6'0"	262	So.	Daingerfield, TX
58	Ott, Alex	OL	6'4"	276	Jr.	Albuquerque, NM
65	Parrish, Joseph	OL	6'0"	246	Jr.	Kingwood, TX
53	Pond, J	OL	6'5"	317	Sr.	Abilene, TX
60	Russell, Josh	OL	6'4"	337	Fr.	Waxahachie, TX
73	Schneider, Travis	OL	6'7"	298	So.	Bellville, TX
78	Shumard, Michael	OL	6'5"	299	Fr.	Belton, TX
70	Wallace, Cody	OL	6'4"	294	Jr.	Cuero, TX
51	Yoder, Chris	OL	6'3"	318	Jr.	Houston, TX

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
11	Bennett, Michael	DL	6'4"	263	So.	Alief, TX
85	Bryant, Red	DL	6'5"	330	Jr.	Jasper, TX
61	Farquhar, John	DL	6'7"	284	Jr.	Round Rock, TX
93	Freeney, Paul	DL	6'3"	262	Fr.	Houston, TX

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
92	Harrington, Chris	DL	6'5"	263	Jr.	Houston, TX
91	Heard, Kellen	DL	6'5"	334	Fr.	Wharton, TX
89	Jack, Jason	DL	6'4"	275	Jr.	Humble, TX
96	Morrisey, William	DL	6'2"	359	So.	Silsbee, TX
49	Obiozor, Cyril	DL	6'4"	270	So.	Pearland, TX
35	Reed, Bryce	DL	6'1"	304	Sr.	Dallas, TX
84	Smith, Chris	DL	6'5"	268	So.	Allen, TX
95	Smith, Henry	DL	6'3"	318	Jr.	Aliceville, AL
47	Steadman, Blake	DL	6'3"	243	Sr.	Houston, TX
94	Thornton, Marques	DL	6'2"	288	Sr.	Houston, TX
80	Williams, Vincent	DL	6'4"	310	Fr.	Dallas, TX

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
37	Blazek, Stephen	LB/LS	6'1"	218	So.	Bellville, TX
40	Cantu, Jarret	LB	6'2"	222	Fr.	McAllen, TX
69	Carson, Evan	LB	5'11"	222	So.	Allen, TX
50	Dodge, Mark	LB	6'2"	219	Jr.	Yerington, NV
53	Dumas, Derrick	LB	6'1"	217	Fr.	Waco, TX
41	Featherston, Matt	LB	6'3"	250	Fr.	Poughkeepsie, NY
17	Haile, Nathan	LB	6'0"	216	Jr.	Friona, TX
52	Hamilton, John	LB	6'1"	214	So.	Belton, TX
25	Hewitt, Charles	LB	6'0"	208	So.	Richmond, TX
29	Hodge, Stephen	LB	6'0"	230	Jr.	Richardson, TX
56	Kennemer, Chase	LB	6'0"	215	Fr.	Arlington, TX
55	La Mantia, Nick	LB	6'1"	227	So.	Mission, TX
50	Mann, Eric	LB	6'2"	231	Jr.	Victoria, TX
42	Manning, Nurahda	LB	6'2"	244	Sr.	Bay City, TX
34	McKay, Tim	LB	6'1"	217	Sr.	Texas City, TX
46	Richardson, Jodie	LB	6'1"	223	Fr.	Duncanville, TX
98	Riewe, Dusty	LB	6'0"	220	So.	Elgin, TX
58	Ross, Trey	LB	6'4"	220	Fr.	Alief, TX
10	Warren, Justin	LB	6'3"	245	Sr.	Tyler, TX

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
8	Almaraz, Matt	SS	5'10"	195	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
9	Bitner, Ben	CB	5'5"	164	Jr.	Round Rock, TX
48	Brown, Arkeith	CB	6'0"	178	So.	El Campo, TX
28	Brown, Japhus	FS	5'11"	203	Jr.	Edna, TX
30	Bryson, Chevar	CB	6'0"	186	Fr.	Midland, TX
33	Bullitt, Melvin	S	6'1"	204	Sr.	Garland, TX
13	Carpenter, Marquis	CB	6'0"	175	Jr.	Melbourne, FL
5	Chambless, Jordan	S	6'1"	208	So.	Corpus Christi, TX
38	Curiel, Chris	S	6'0"	196	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
16	Dixon, Alton	SS	5'11"	207	So.	Lufkin, TX
45	Farrell, Rawley	S	6'0"	195	Jr.	East Bernard, TX
34	Gold, Marcus	CB	5'8"	180	Fr.	Irving, TX
4	Gorrer, Danny	CB	6'0"	182	So.	Port Arthur, TX
26	Gregg, Devin	FS	6'0"	195	So.	Spring, TX
22	Karr, Jeff	DB	5'9"	189	So.	Richardson, TX
24	Kociuba, Tyler	DB	5'11"	192	Jr.	Liberty Hill, TX
36	LaFon, Matthew	FS	5'10"	200	Sr.	Magnolia, TX
21	Latham, David	SS	6'2"	205	So.	Colleyville, TX
20	Newton, Brock	CB	5'11"	188	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
27	Peterson, Jordan	CB	5'10"	193	Fr.	Lexington, TX
31	Sallah, Husani	DB	5'8"	170	Fr.	Houston, TX
22	Sawtelle, Travis	DB	6'0"	177	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
39	Witte, Mike	S	5'9"	181	Fr.	Colleyville, TX

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
27	Bean, Richie	P/K	6'0"	181	So.	Marrero, LA
44	Brantly, Justin	P	6'3"	231	So.	Sealy, TX
47	Davis, Cory	LS	6'0"	256	So.	Conroe, TX
37	Davis, Kyle	K	6'0"	183	Fr.	Midland, TX
31	De La Fosse, Taylor	K	5'11"	181	Fr.	Houston, TX
67	Giesselman, Sam	LS	6'4"	208	So.	Arlington, TX
23	Goeke, Brandt	K	6'0"	170	So.	Brenham, TX
45	Gooch, Weston	K	6'0"	197	Fr.	Salado, TX
32	Neumann, Layne	K	5'11"	175	Sr.	Hondo, TX

Head Coach: Dennis Franchione • Record at School: 16–19 (3 years) • Career Record: 171–93–2 (23 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Les Koenning Jr. • Defensive Coordinator: Gary Darnell • College Station, Texas • Kyle Field (82,600)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Reggie McNeal	265	141	1,963	16	9
Stephen McGee	**53**	**24**	**283**	**2**	**1**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Courtney Lewis	**109**	**723**	**6.6**	**7**
Reggie McNeal	96	664	6.9	3
Jorvorskie Lane	**119**	**595**	**5.0**	**9**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jason Carter	54	827	15.3	6
Chad Schroeder	**20**	**335**	**16.8**	**5**
DeQwan Mobley	19	252	13.3	0

Kicking: Todd Pegram, 15-19 FGs, 41-41 XPs, 86 points
Tackles: **Justin Warren, 95;** Archie McDaniel, 82
Sacks: Johnny Jolly, 5.0
Interceptions: **Marquis Carpenter, 4**

Returning Players in Bold

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Heat relief By the time practices start this summer, A&M should have an added weapon in its preparation plans — an indoor practice facility. The 12th Man Foundation, A&M's athletic fundraising organization, received a $9 million lead gift from the Artie and Dorothy McFerrin family for the proposed $20 million facility. "It will be a huge lift for us as we attempt to handle the Texas heat," Franchione says.

Pretend performance As a kid, quarterback Stephen McGee used to come home from school, suit up in his Texas A&M football uniform and play pretend games in his backyard, throwing the ball up in the air and catching it while announcing his make-believe game. Says McGee: "In my pretend games the Aggies never lost ... We want to get to a point where our real record matches the record the Aggies used to have in my pretend world."

Bucky II After his strong, gritty performances last year against Oklahoma and Texas, many A&M fans were already comparing McGee to former A&M star quarterback Bucky Richardson. Those comparisons will undoubtedly continue when McGee starts his first game this year in the No. 7 uniform — the same number Richardson wore. McGee, who wore No. 15 last year, says he made the switch because No. 7 was his high school number.

Coming from all directions New defensive coordinator Gary Darnell says one of the keys to his unit's 4-2-5 alignment will be finding safeties who are capable of lining up and blitzing from various spots on the field. Says Darnell: "If you just say a guy is an outside linebacker, and he lines up at the same spot every time, my daughter sitting on the 58th row knows where to find him."

2005 RESULTS

Record: 5–6 (3–5 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	at Clemson	L	24–25	80,000
Sept. 17	SMU	W	66– 8	75,128
Sept. 22	Texas State	W	44–31	72,741
Oct. 1	Baylor	W	(ot) 16–13	79,280
Oct. 8	at Colorado	L	20–41	50,686
Oct. 15	Oklahoma State	W	62–23	78,451
Oct. 22	at Kansas State	W	30–28	45,915
Oct. 29	Iowa State	L	14–42	86,172
Nov. 5	at Texas Tech	L	17–56	55,755
Nov. 12	at Oklahoma	L	30–36	84,943
Nov. 25	Texas	L	29–40	86,617

Layne Murdoch

Red Bryant

2006 RECRUITING

For a Texas A&M program that once signed Darren Lewis and Randy Simmons in the same 1987 class, and once fielded a phone call from Sirr Parker during a Signing Day press conference, the recent drama surrounding the recruitment of superstar tailbacks has been more agonizing than rejuvenating. Adrian Peterson, for example, danced with the Aggies until closing time two years ago before grabbing Oklahoma's hand. But last February the marquee running back was back at A&M. The Aggies signed perhaps the most high-profile tailback since Parker in 1995, landing Klein (Texas) Collins' Mike Goodson, who is a blur of skills that grabs your attention like a Ferrari in the fast lane. Goodson chose A&M over the likes of USC, Miami, Oklahoma and LSU. In 2005, Goodson battled an ankle injury and missed most of the team's first four games, but he still finished with 973 yards and eight touchdowns on just 99 carries. And he was quite possibly the most impressive player at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio.

"Mike is probably one of the nation's elite running backs and arguably the top running back in the state," A&M coach Dennis Franchione said. "The thing that sticks out to me is that he is a complete back."

While Goodson was the headliner of last February's class, the Aggies also addressed some key defensive needs by signing standout defensive players like linebacker Anthony Lewis, junior college linebacker Mark Dodge and defensive back Jordan Pugh.

The overall class, which featured 21 players, was not as highly ranked as Franchione's previous two. But if Goodson, Lewis and a few others live up to their enormous potential, this will be a class to remember for A&M fans for many years to come.

Johnathan Batson DB 6'2" 195 San Antonio, TX
Named NJCAA National Defensive Player of the Year, Southwest JC Conference Defensive Player of the Year and Cisco (TX) JC team MVP.

Cody Beyer WR 6'1" 180 San Antonio, TX
Ranked No. 4 prospect in San Antonio by San Antonio Express-News.

Kenny Brown WR 6'3" 197 Putnam City, OK
Caught 63 passes for 861 yards and 10 TDs as a senior.

Chris Caflisch ATH 6'2" 180 San Antonio, TX
Named San Antonio Offensive Player of the Year by San Antonio Express-News. Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Threw for 1,507 yards, 15 TDs and three INTs; rushed for 1,374 yards and nine TDs.

Latrael Cooper RB 6'2" 220 Cuero, TX
Ranked No. 31 running back in the nation by Rivals.com. Missed 2004 season due to injury. Rushed for 1,498 yards and 24 TDs in 2003.

Torey DeGrate WR 6'1" 180 Waco, TX
Ranked No. 13 juco wide receiver by Scout.com. Named first-team All-Southwest JC Conference as a sophomore at Trinity Valley (TX) CC.

Pierre Fleurinor DB 6'0" 210 Wharton, TX
Ranked No. 39 safety in the nation by Scout.com and No. 39 outside linebacker in the country by Rivals.com. Also ran track.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Defensive Backs	5	Texas	17
Wide Receivers	5	Alabama	1
Linebackers	3	Oklahoma	1
Athletes	2	Nevada	1
Defensive Linemen	2	Utah	1
Running Backs	2		
Offensive Linemen	1		
Quarterbacks	1		

Mike Goodson RB 6'0" 205 Klein, TX
Finalist for Houston Touchdown Club Offensive Player of the Year. Ranked No. 4 running back in the nation by Rivals.com.

Jerrod Johnson QB 6'6" 225 Humble, TX
Winner of Houston Touchdown Club Offensive Player of the Year. Named District 22 Class 5A Offensive MVP. Ranked No. 18 prospect in Texas by Scout.com and No. 31 athlete in the nation by Rivals.com.

Anthony Lewis LB 6'3" 225 Haltom City, TX
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Named Area Defensive Player of the Year by Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Ranked No. 8 linebacker in the nation and No. 13 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON...MARK DODGE

Linebacker • 6'3" • 235 • Yerington, NV

During his time in the Army, Mark Dodge was, among other things, selected to serve in the Presidential Honor Guard. And, while stationed in Fort Myers, Va., he happened to be inside the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 and crashed the plane into the government building.

The 25-year-old Dodge obviously has some intriguing stories to tell. But one of his favorites says about all you need to know about his persistence. After leaving high school and serving in the Army, Dodge decided to pursue his college football dreams. The Yerington, Nev., native called 30 junior colleges along the West Coast, seeking an opportunity to continue his collegiate dreams. He received no return phone calls.

"Not a single one called back," Dodge says. "I can't say I blamed them, either. Who wants a former military guy who has been playing in company flag football leagues?"

Dodge eventually landed at Feather River (Calif.) Community College, and he played well enough to attract A&M's attention. Then, upon enrolling at A&M last spring, he played well enough to be penciled in as one of the Aggies' starting linebackers.

"It's amazing how things have worked out," Dodge says.

Terrence McCoy WR 6'4" 200 Midland, TX
Named first-team All-District 3 Class 5A as a senior at Midland Lee. Recorded 735 receiving yards and six TDs, with one kick return TD in '05.

Jarius Neal DB 6'3" 218 Reform, AL
Named first-team MACJC South Conference at East Central (Ala.) CC. Recorded six INTs in '05. Ranked No. 27 juco prospect by Rivals.com.

Lucas Patterson OL 6'5" 290 Kingsville, TX
Named first-team All-District 31 Class 4A as a senior.

Jordan Pugh DB 5'11" 180 Plano, TX
Named first-team All-District 8 Class 5A as a senior. Ranked No. 13 cornerback in the nation by Scout.com. Recorded five INTs in 2005.

Leslie Ray DL 6'3" 260 Midland, TX
Named second-team Class 5A All-State as a senior at Midland Lee. Ranked No. 15 defensive tackle in the country by Scout.com.

E.J. Shankle WR 5'11" 185 Lufkin, TX
Named first-team All-District 14 Class 5A as a senior.

Cornell Tarrant ATH 5'11" 185 Dallas, TX
Ranked No. 39 running back in the nation by Rivals.com.

DeMaurier Thompson DB 6'1" 185 Dallas, TX
Named first-team All-District 9 Class 5A at linebacker as a senior.

Misi Tupe LB 5'11" 245 St. George, UT
Finalist for NJCAA National Defensive Player of the Year and named Western States Defensive Player of the Year at Dixie State (Utah) College.

Cody Williams DE 6'4" 235 Longview, TX
Ranked No. 9 defensive end in the nation by Scout.com.

National Forecast **22** | Big 12 South Prediction **3rd**

On one hand, Texas Tech linebacker Fletcher Session confidently says that the Red Raiders' nine-win season last year represented a significant statement to the rest of the Big 12 conference.

"We pretty much showed everybody last year that they better take us seriously," says Fletcher, who is the Red Raiders' leading returning tackler.

Indeed, Tech's perfect home record, its appearance in a January bowl game and its victories over traditional Big 12 heavyweights Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas A&M and Kansas State delivered a definitive signal that Tech is clearly a team on the rise in the league's pecking order.

On the other hand, Session and his teammates have certainly not spent much time patting themselves on the back during the offseason. In fact, it sounds as if Session has spent far more time seething about 2005 than celebrating.

"We aren't even close to being satisfied with nine wins," Fletcher says. "We feel like we should have beaten Alabama (in the Cotton Bowl), and that loss to Oklahoma State was just pitiful. That loss probably cost us a shot at a BCS bowl. That loss still eats at us. We won't let something like that happen again. We're not just hoping to get back to a bowl this year; we're working every day toward a BCS berth."

That's about the only thing that has eluded the Raiders during Mike Leach's first six seasons in Lubbock. Tech has led the nation in passing the last four years and, more significant, has won at least eight games in each of those four seasons. Leach has also guided Tech to six consecutive bowl games.

Despite all that Tech has accomplished, however, the Red Raiders have primarily been perceived — at least from a national standpoint — as second-class citizens in the Big 12 South. Good, yes. Dangerous, absolutely. But elite? BCS worthy?

Not really.

But the '06 Raiders are out to change all that. Tech returns eight starters from one of the most prolific offenses in the country, and, although there are some holes to fill on defense, the Raiders believe they possess the necessary pieces to win the South Division.

Quarterbacks Perhaps no other school is more adept when it comes to replacing quarterbacks than Texas Tech. In the last four seasons, the Raiders have used four different starting quarterbacks — Kliff Kingsbury, B.J. Symons, Sonny Cumbie and Cody Hodges. But with each new signal-caller the result has always been the same; Tech always finds a way to lead the nation in passing.

So, it should come as no surprise that the Raiders are quite comfortable talking about the prospects of another newcomer taking over at quarterback. But here's a scary thought for Tech foes: This particular quarterback, sophomore Graham Harrell, may be the best-equipped and most-complete passer that Leach has ever had in Lubbock.

Harrell ran a spread attack in high school, passing for 4,825 yards and 67 touchdowns as a senior. He redshirted in 2004 and played sparingly last year, completing 67.3 percent of his passes for 422 yards and three scores. And — barring injury — he seems poised for a record-setting three-year run as Tech's starter.

NUMBERS GAME

11 Texas Tech has had 11 consecutive winning seasons, placing the Raiders in elite company. Only Florida State, Michigan, Florida, Virginia Tech and Toledo have a longer streak of consecutive winning seasons.

Running Backs Tech will be hard-pressed to find a replacement for Taurean Henderson, who scored 22 touchdowns and 132 points last year and also broke the NCAA record for career receptions by a running back. But the top candidates — Shannon Woods and Taurance Rawls — have some extremely impressive credentials of their own.

Woods displayed his explosive potential last fall by earning All-Big 12 honorable mention honors as a kickoff returner. Woods, at 203 pounds, is bigger and more powerful than Henderson, but he is also quick enough to make something out of nothing. In limited action, Woods averaged 7.0 yards per carry and 9.4 yards per reception. Rawls, who missed spring practices with an injury, has played in 23 games in his first two seasons.

Receivers First, let's state the obvious: For the umpteenth consecutive season, Texas Tech is loaded with talented receivers. Now, here's another scary thought for Big 12 defensive coordinators: Practically every Tech wideout who shredded opposing secondaries last season is back for more in '06.

Robert Johnson, Joel Filani and Jarrett Hicks combined to catch an astounding 197 passes last fall. And they all return, providing tremendous athleticism and pass-catching skills. Johnson, a former quarterback and the 2005 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year, led the team with 67 receptions last year, while Hicks already owns the school record for career receiving touchdowns with 28. Filani may have been the best of the bunch last fall, averaging 16.1 yards per catch.

And there's Danny Amendola, who just

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE RED RAIDERS

Even with a new quarterback, it's practically a given that Texas Tech will lead the nation in passing offense for a fifth straight season, especially since sophomore Graham Harrell seems perfectly suited for this offense. Harrell has plenty of big-time targets to distribute the ball to, and the offensive line is solid enough to give Harrell time in the pocket. Defensively, coordinator Lyle Setencich returns a talented front seven. The concern is in the secondary, where three new starters must adapt quickly. Special teams should be a strength, as Tech welcomes back punter Alex Reyes and placekicker Alex Trlica. And the return game — highlighted by Danny Amendola — should be excellent. On paper, the Raiders appear to be one of the premier teams in the Big 12. But Tech's Big 12 championship hopes may ultimately be determined by how the Raiders perform away from home. Tech has a huge home date against defending national champion Texas in late October, but most of its other key conference games — Texas A&M, Colorado, Iowa State and Oklahoma — are on the road. If the Raiders have the maturity to handle a brutal road schedule, they could contend for their first-ever BCS bowl. If not, another second-tier bowl bid is in Tech's future.

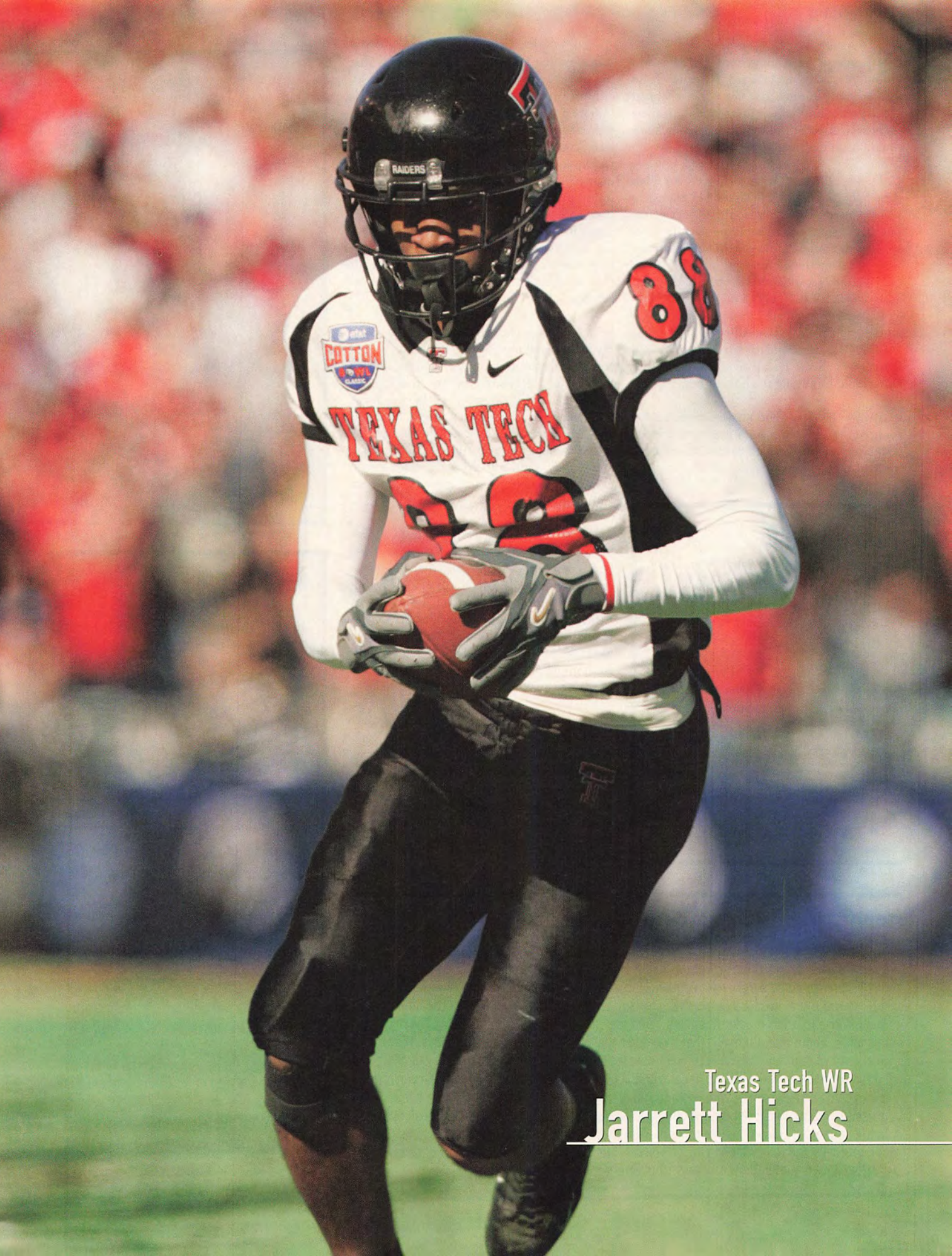
Joel Filani

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	SMU	W
S.	9	at UTEP	W
S.	**16**	**at TCU**	*
S.	23	SE Louisiana	W
S.	**30**	**at Texas A&M**	*
O.	7	Missouri	W
O.	14	at Colorado	W
O.	21	at Iowa State	W
O.	28	Texas	L
N.	4	Baylor	W
N.	11	at Oklahoma	L
N.	18	Oklahoma State	W

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Hicks: Layne Murdoch; Filani: Chris Conatta



Texas Tech WR

Jarrett Hicks

now seems to be coming into his own as a junior. L.A. Reed, Edward Britton, Todd Walker and Purdue transfer Grant Walker (Todd's older brother) — just to mention a few — provide a wealth of depth that few schools could possibly match.

Offensive Linemen Texas Tech tied for 96th nationally (out of 117 Division I-A teams) in sacks allowed last year, yielding 3.0 per game. But that's a somewhat misleading statistic. After all, Tech attempted more passes (588) than any other team in the country — and 265 more than Minnesota, which led the nation in fewest sacks allowed at 0.25 per game.

Tech returns an impressive collection of offensive linemen, led by All-Big 12 candidate Manuel Ramirez at guard. Glenn January and Brandon Jones also return on an offensive front that should be among the league's better units.

Defensive Linemen The Raiders entered 2005 counting on big things from defensive linemen Seth Nitschmann and Dek Bake. The bad news was that both players were lost for the year with season-ending injuries. The good news is that they should be back and better than ever in '06.

Nitschmann, who accounted for 44 tackles (4.5 for a loss) in 2004, is moving to rush end, while the combination of Bake, Chris Hudler, Ken Scott and Brian Jones will likely form the tackle rotation. Hudler, who had five quarterback hurries last fall, was particularly impressive in the spring. "I would say Chris has been the standout," defensive tackles coach Ruffin McNeil says. Tech is hoping that the extremely athletic McKinner Dixon can continue to progress at the other end spot after earning freshman All-America honors last year.

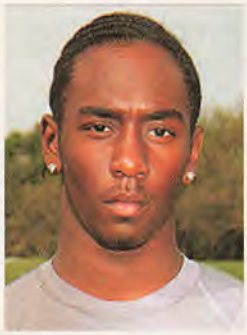
Linebackers The biggest offseason move involved switching All-Big 12 defensive end Keyunta Dawson from rush end to outside linebacker. Dawson is a tremendous playmaker, and if the move works out, Tech's linebacker corps could be a strength. Session is another outstanding playmaker, accounting for 81 tackles last year, including five for a loss. Steady middle linebacker Brock Stratton also returns after missing most of last year with an injury.

Defensive Backs Texas Tech finished 15th nationally in pass defense in 2005, but it will be extremely difficult for the Raiders to duplicate that same level of success without safeties Vincent Meeks and Dwayne Slay. Athletic cornerback Antonio Huffman returns to the fold, but the Raiders will need players like Chris Parker, Joe Garcia, Lance Fuller, Anthony Hines and Darcel McBath to step up in a hurry to keep the defense off the field.

Specialists The elusive Amendola is one of the most dangerous return specialists in the league, drawing comparisons to former Tech legend Wes Welker. Punter Alex Reyes also returns after averaging 42.8 yards per punt, and placekicker Alex Trlica is an extremely steady force, converting 13-of-18 field goal attempts last year and all 115 of his extra-point attempts dating back to 2004.

RISING STAR

Plainview (Texas) High School star Jamar Wall comes to Texas Tech after back-to-back 2,000-yard rushing performances. But his future is in the secondary. Tech defensive coordinator Lyle Setencich says Wall possesses the best ball skills he's seen since he coached Cincinnati Bengals star Deltha O'Neal at the University of California.



SCOUTING THE RED RAIDERS

Opposing coaches size up Texas Tech: "Mike Leach has done a great job of plugging quarterbacks into his offense, but this will be the first year he doesn't have an experienced guy to turn to. I'd be surprised if Graham Harrell isn't as good as the other quarterbacks they've had there, because he was very highly recruited. But it takes a lot of repetitions in that offense to really master it, so they need to settle on a quarterback quickly. The biggest misnomer about that offense is that they don't run an inordinate number of plays. They try to spread you out and hit you with quick passes, but it's a lot of the same plays out of varied formations. You've got to keep everything in front of you. You can't let the running backs catch screen passes with room to run in front of them. You've got to bring some pressure and try to disrupt their rhythm and timing. You've got to win the field position battle so they've got a long field to work with. They've got three great receivers (Joel Filani, Jarrett Hicks and Robert Johnson), so you can't let the quarterback have a lot of time. They've gotten a lot better on defense, but offense is still paying the bills."

Robert Johnson

KEY RED RAIDERS

Graham Harrell, QB
The perfect fit for Mike Leach's wide-open passing attack.

Jarrett Hicks, WR
Mr. Touchdown already has 28 career TD catches.

Joel Filani, WR
Led Big 12 by averaging 87.3 receiving yards per game.

Fletcher Session, LB
Athletic, big-play linebacker recorded 81 stops in 2005.

Keyunta Dawson, LB
Making the move from DE to LB could make him a bigger force.

KEY LOSSES

Cody Hodges, QB
Led the nation in passing with 4,238 yards and 31 TDs.

Taurean Henderson, RB
Do-it-all RB will be hard to replace after scoring 414 career points.

Dwayne Slay, FS
Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year had 114 tackles and eight forced fumbles.

Vincent Meeks, SS
Always around the football, Meeks had 12 career interceptions.

E.J. Whitley, OL
Anchor of a fairly solid offensive line.

Chris Covatta

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**88**	**Jarrett Hicks**	**Sr.**
WR	**8**	**Joel Filani**	**Sr.**
WR	**20**	**Danny Amendola**	**Jr.**
WR	**9**	**Robert Johnson**	**Sr.**
LT	**69**	**Glenn January**	**Sr.**
LG	65	Louis Vasquez	Fr.
C	**73**	**Brandon Jones**	**Sr.**
RG	**63**	**Manuel Ramirez**	**Sr.**
RT	**78**	**Gabe Hall**	**Sr.**
QB	6	Graham Harrell	So.
RB	21	Shannon Woods	So.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	4	Todd Walker	So.
WR	27	Edward Britton	Fr.
WR	86	L.A. Reed	So.
WR	16	Grant Walker	Jr.
LT	67	Marlon Winn	Fr.
LG		Ofa Mohetau	Jr.
C	72	Josh Aleman	So.
RG	60	Brandon Carter	Fr.
RT	61	Andrew Johnson	Fr.
QB	13	Chris Todd	Fr.
RB	18	Taurance Rawls	Fr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (5)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	91	McKinner Dixon	So.
NT	**93**	**Chris Hudler**	**Sr.**
DT	**99**	**Ken Scott**	**Sr.**
DE	92	Seth Nitschmann	Sr.
SLB	**96**	**Keyunta Dawson**	**Sr.**
MLB	45	Brock Stratton	Sr.
WLB	**42**	**Fletcher Session**	**Sr.**
CB	**36**	**Antonio Huffman**	**Sr.**
CB	17	Chris Parker	Jr.
SS	49	Joe Garcia	Jr.
FS	7	Darcel McBath	So.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	77	Jared Williams	So.
NT	90	Brian Jones	So.
DT	51	Dek Bake	Sr.
DE	89	Tyler Yenzer	Jr.
SLB	56	Kellen Tillman	Sr.
MLB	48	Paul Williams	Jr.
WLB	39	Brent Slaughter	Sr.
CB	28	Marcus Bunton	So.
CB	33	Brent Nickerson	Fr.
SS	23	Anthony Hines	So.
FS	24	Lance Fuller	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	30	Alex Trlica	Jr.
P	22	Alex Reyes	Sr.
KR	20	Danny Amendola	Jr.
PR	20	Danny Amendola	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 TEXAS TECH ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
15	Braddock, John	QB	6'3"	192	So.	Pampa, TX
6	Harrell, Graham	QB	6'2"	189	So.	Ennis, TX
7	Rowland, Ryan	QB	6'3"	203	Jr.	Midland, TX
13	Todd, Chris	QB	6'2"	203	Fr.	Elizabethtown, KY

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
34	Bradley, Justin	RB	5'8"	187	Jr.	Arlington, TX
39	Hampton, Trey	RB	6'0"	218	Fr.	Watauga, TX
23	Hayes, Ryan	RB	5'6"	161	Fr.	Galveston, TX
37	Lewis, Kobey	RB	5'6"	169	Fr.	Abilene, TX
18	Rawls, Taurance	RB	5'10"	200	Jr.	Garland, TX
31	Richardson, Pete	RB	5'9"	190	Fr.	Muskogee, OK
40	Stone, Nathan	RB	5'8"	165	Fr.	Lubbock, TX
21	Woods, Shannon	RB	5'11"	203	So.	McKinney, TX

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
20	Amendola, Danny	WR	5'10"	181	Jr.	The Woodlands, TX
3	Bachman, Thomas	IR	5'9"	185	Jr.	Shreveport, LA
27	Britton, Edward	WR	5'11"	164	Fr.	El Paso, TX
85	Cunigan, Chris	WR	6'2"	170	Fr.	Wills Point, TX
87	Dorsey, Michael	IR	6'5"	230	Sr.	Arlington, TX
8	Filani, Joel	WR	6'3"	222	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
84	Griffin, J.J.	WR	5'10"	206	So.	Odessa, TX
88	Hicks, Jarrett	WR	6'3"	210	Sr.	Houston, TX
7	Hildebrandt, Kelly	IR	5'9"	181	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
25	Hoefer, Landon	WR	6'1"	205	Fr.	Abilene, TX
2	Houston, Catron	IR	5'11"	183	So.	Houston, TX
9	Johnson, Robert	IR	6'2"	202	Sr.	Americus, GA
26	Mickelson, Austin	TE	6'3"	236	Fr.	Arlington, TX
12	Morris, Eric	IR	5'8"	178	So.	Shallowater, TX
11	Pilgrim, David	IR	5'10"	173	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
86	Reed, L.A.	WR	6'2"	190	So.	Conroe, TX
80	Reed, Rylan	TE	6'7"	275	So.	Dallas, TX
24	Rodgers, Thomas	WR	6'3"	190	Fr.	Missouri City, TX
29	Schaefer, David	IR	6'3"	232	Jr.	Cisco, TX
16	Walker, Grant	IR	6'1"	187	Jr.	Pflugerville, TX
4	Walker, Todd	WR	6'1"	179	So.	Pflugerville, TX
17	Witherspoon, Josh	WR	6'2"	202	So.	Wolfforth, TX

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
72	Aleman, Josh	OL	6'4"	310	So.	Sherman, TX
66	Baker, Cody	OL	6'4"	288	So.	Rowlett, TX
75	Burge, Landon	OL	6'3"	290	Fr.	Leander, TX
64	Byrnes, Shawn	OL	6'3"	308	Fr.	Phoenix, AZ
60	Carter, Brandon	OL	6'6"	343	Fr.	Longview, TX
78	Hall, Gabe	OL	6'4"	285	Sr.	Lubbock, TX
71	Hamby, Stephen	OL	6'2"	274	So.	San Antonio, TX
69	January, Glenn	OL	6'7"	294	Sr.	Houston, TX
61	Johnson, Andrew	OL	6'4"	278	Fr.	Houston, TX
73	Jones, Brandon	OL	6'4"	316	Sr.	Keizer, OR
68	Lewis, Ross	OL	6'2"	293	Sr.	Dallas, TX
73	Marquez, Nick	OL	6'2"	274	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
63	Ramirez, Manuel	OL	6'4"	339	Sr.	Houston, TX
77	Spriggs, David	OL	6'3"	291	Fr.	Pflugerville, TX
79	Taylor, Gary	OL	6'5"	200	Fr.	Wolfforth, TX
65	Vasquez, Louis	OL	6'5"	301	Fr.	Corsicana, TX
67	Winn, Marlon	OL	6'5"	297	Fr.	Waxahachie, TX

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
51	Bake, Dek	DT	6'6"	263	Sr.	Sacramento, CA
91	Dixon, McKinner	DT	6'3"	245	So.	Lufkin, TX
93	Hudler, Chris	DL	6'3"	290	Sr.	Mesquite, TX
95	Hunt, Rashad	DE	6'2"	260	Fr.	Lufkin, TX
52	Hunter, Victor	DE	5'11"	231	Fr.	Irving, TX
90	Jones, Brian	DT	5'11"	282	So.	Everman, TX
94	Jones, Phillip	DE	6'4"	244	Fr.	Lewisville, TX
92	Nitschmann, Seth	DE	6'4"	257	Sr.	Corpus Christi, TX
98	Ratliff, Jake	DE	6'6"	237	So.	Lawton, OK
47	Ratliff, Joe Bob	DE	6'1"	220	Fr.	Midland, TX
99	Scott, Ken	DL	6'2"	316	Sr.	Newton, TX
77	Williams, Jared	DE	6'5"	220	So.	LaMarque, TX
89	Yenzer, Tyler	DE	6'4"	234	Jr.	Midland, TX

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
96	Dawson, Keyunta	LB	6'2"	260	Sr.	Shreveport, LA
38	Ellinburg, Lane	LB	6'1"	209	Fr.	Jacksboro, TX
50	Hale, Ryan	LB	6'0"	201	Fr.	Baytown, TX
54	Hill, Chad	LB	6'0"	227	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
59	Linder, Ty	LB	6'2"	209	Jr.	Austin, TX
46	Riley, Sandy	LB	6'1"	258	Fr.	Houston, TX
42	Session, Fletcher	LB	6'0"	229	Sr.	Tyler, TX
53	Shearer, Calen	LB	6'1"	212	So.	Austin, TX
39	Slaughter, Brent	LB	6'1"	215	Sr.	Wimberley, TX
45	Stratton, Brock	LB	5'11"	214	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
56	Tillman, Kellen	LB	6'2"	237	Sr.	Plano, TX
58	Wallace, Chris	LB	5'11"	201	Fr.	Grapevine, TX
48	Williams, Paul	LB	6'2"	227	Jr.	Tyler, TX

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
28	Bunton, Marcus	CB	5'8"	191	So.	Taylor, TX
10	Charbonet, Daniel	S	6'0"	189	So.	The Woodlands, TX
13	Conwright, James	CB	5'10"	183	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
8	Cruz, Chris	S	5'11"	210	Sr.	Lubbock, TX
14	Ellis, K.J.	S	6'2"	201	Fr.	Arlington, TX
24	Fuller, Lance	S	6'0"	218	So.	Smithson Valley, TX
49	Garcia, Joe	FS	6'2"	206	Jr.	Clovis, NM
23	Hines, Anthony	S	6'1"	227	So.	Denison, TX
36	Huffman, Antonio	CB	6'0"	180	Sr.	Lovejoy, GA
7	McBath, Darcel	CB	6'1"	199	So.	Gainesville, TX
33	Nickerson, Brent	CB	6'0"	172	Fr.	Irving, TX
17	Parker, Chris	CB	5'11"	175	Jr.	Dallas, TX
18	Read, Taylor	S	6'1"	218	Jr.	O'Donnell, TX
27	Rowland, Jordy	S	6'3"	190	So.	Nazareth, TX
34	Vation, LaShawn	S	5'9"	173	Fr.	Irving, TX
21	Ward, Clarence	S	6'0"	177	Fr.	Pensacola, FL
16	White, Loy	S	5'8"	192	Jr.	Georgetown, TX

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
82	Berg, Grant	K	6'5"	209	So.	Houston, TX
61	Bettenhausen, Michael	LS	6'3"	270	Jr.	Plano, TX
50	Burns, Austin	LS	5'10"	246	Fr.	Midland, TX
37	Fowler, Corey	K	5'8"	165	So.	The Woodlands, TX
13	Galindo, Brian	K	5'9"	165	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
22	Reyes, Alex	P	6'1"	219	Sr.	Allen, TX
20	Ritchey, Brandon	P	5'11"	209	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
14	Toogood, Keith	K	6'2"	179	Sr.	Rowlett, TX
30	Trlica, Alex	K	5'11"	170	Jr.	Friendswood, TX
87	Warner, Gerrid	LS	6'7	216	Jr.	Oak Harbor, WA

Head Coach: Mike Leach • Record at School: 48–28 (6 years) • Career Record: 48–28 (6 years)
Co-Offensive Coordinators: Sonny Dykes, Dana Holgorsen • Defensive Coordinator: Lyle Setencich • Lubbock, Texas • Jones AT&T Stadium (52,882)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Cody Hodges	531	353	4,238	31	12
Graham Harrell	**55**	**37**	**422**	**3**	**0**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Taurean Henderson	148	872	5.9	17
Cody Hodges	109	191	1.8	3
Shannon Woods	**24**	**168**	**7.0**	**3**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Robert Johnson	**67**	**951**	**14.2**	**4**
Taurean Henderson	67	528	7.9	5
Joel Filani	**65**	**1,048**	**16.1**	**8**
Jarrett Hicks	65	850	13.1	10

Kicking: **Alex Trlica, 13-18 FGs, 60-60 XPs, 99 points**
Tackles: Dwayne Slay, 114; **Fletcher Session, 81**
Sacks: John Saldi, 3
Interceptions: Vincent Meeks, 3

Returning Players in Bold

Layne Murdoch

Keyunta Dawson

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

New name Texas Tech's football stadium underwent a name change during the spring, becoming Jones AT&T Stadium. The name change is a reflection of SBC Communications' 2005 acquisition of AT&T and its decision to keep the AT&T name. The stadium had been called Jones SBC Stadium since 2000.

Rising Raiders Thanks to a fast start in 2005, the Red Raiders cracked the Top 10 of the national polls for the first time since 1977. Now, the goal is to stay there. Tech finished last year ranked No. 19 in the *USA Today* Coaches Poll and No. 20 in the *Associated Press* Poll.

Best stretch ever In six years as Tech's head coach, Mike Leach has posted 48 wins, matching the best six-season total in Tech history. Tech also posted 48 wins between 1972-77, including an 11-win season in 1973.

Tough offseason Tragedy struck the Texas Tech football family just a little more than a week after the Raiders' appearance in the 2006 Cotton Bowl when defensive backs coach Dave Brown died from a heart attack on Jan. 10. Brian Mitchell, who coached defensive backs at BYU the previous 12 seasons, was hired as Brown's replacement.

Spreading the wealth The Red Raiders had 16 players score points last season, including seven players who scored more than one touchdown.

The FieldTurf is greener Tech has joined a growing trend of college and professional football teams by installing FieldTurf to replace AstroTurf. The FieldTurf more closely resembles real grass and is much softer than AstroTurf. Tech is now the fourth Big 12 school to install FieldTurf — joining Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas State. Twenty-two NFL teams also use FieldTurf at their stadiums or in their practice facilities.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 9–3 (6–2 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 10	Florida International	W	56– 3	50,156
Sept. 17	Sam Houston	W	80–21	50,171
Sept. 24	Indiana State	W	63– 7	44,681
Oct. 1	Kansas	W	30–17	52,601
Oct. 8	at Nebraska	W	34–31	77,580
Oct. 15	Kansas State	W	59–20	50,813
Oct. 22	at Texas	L	17–52	83,919
Oct. 29	at Baylor	W	28– 0	43,525
Nov. 5	Texas A&M	W	56–17	55,755
Nov. 12	at Oklahoma State	L	17–24	40,035
Nov. 19	Oklahoma	W	23–21	52,625
Jan. 2	#Alabama	L	10–13	74,222
	#Cotton Bowl			

2006 RECRUITING

If it's true that bigger is better, then it is difficult to imagine a better recruiting class than the one Mike Leach signed last February. The Raiders signed 34 players, the largest class of any Division I-A school and the largest at Tech since the NCAA imposed scholarship limits on schools in the 1970s.

For Tech's sake, though, hopefully there is as much quality as there is quantity. "It was a big class," Leach says. "But we also feel very good about the caliber of players we signed. We put an emphasis on offensive linemen, and I feel like we did a good job of addressing our needs."

The Raiders signed seven offensive linemen and seven defensive backs. But now the question is: Who all will arrive in August? Under NCAA regulations, a maximum of 25 members of the 2006 class can be on scholarship when school starts in the fall. So, what about the other nine signees?

Leach says that attrition will play a part of the decision-making process and, according to Tech quality control director Dennis Simmons, as many as seven freshman signees did not meet eligibility requirements by Signing Day. Simmons also said that four signees agreed to "grayshirt," meaning that they won't enroll as full-time students or begin practicing until January 2007.

But, while some players must wait to even practice, several members of this class could make an immediate impact. Some of the headliners of this class include Dallas Carter wide receiver Mike Crabtree, Galveston Ball defensive tackle Ra'jon Henley, Lufkin cornerback Leonard Hewitt, Midwest City (Okla.) cornerback LaRon Moore and Plainview defensive back Jamar Wall.

Adrian Archie OL 6'5" 285 Huntsville, TX
Ranked No. 72 offensive guard in the nation by ESPN.com.

Baron Batch RB 5'10" 190 Midland, TX
Rushed for 2,005 yards; ranked No. 27 RB in nation by Rivals.com.

Dwayne Baziel DE 6'3" 233 Galveston, TX
Named District 24 Class 5A Defensive MVP as a senior.

Buddy Brumit OL 6'3" 285 Garland, TX
Named No. 31 offensive guard in the country by Rivals.com.

Blake Collier LB 6'2" 208 Justin, TX
Ranked No. 24 linebacker in the nation by Scout.com.

Michael Crabtree WR 6'2" 215 Dallas, TX
Ranked No. 16 athlete in the country by Rivals.com.

Jocques Crawford RB 5'11" 208 Cordova, TN
Ranked No. 18 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com.

Ben Davis OL 6'8" 292 Boerne, TX
Ranked No. 77 offensive tackle in the nation ESPN.com.

Tyler Duggins OL 6'7" 275 Iowa Park, TX
Named Red River 22 Large School MVP as a senior.

Brian Duncan LB 6'2" 228 Baton Rouge, LA
Named District 7 Class 4A MVP and first-team all-state as a senior.

Sean Estelle DE 6'3" 245 Missouri City, TX
Recorded 104 tackles, four forced fumbles and two sacks as a senior.

Steven Harris S 5'11" 180 Lewisville, TX
Named District 9 Class 4A co-Defensive Player of the Year in 2005.

Ra'jon Henley DT 6'3" 250 Galveston, TX
Ranked No. 38 defensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Defensive Linemen	8	Texas	30
Defensive Backs	7	Louisiana	2
Offensive Linemen	7	California	1
Linebackers	5	Tennessee	1
Running Backs	2		
Tight Ends	2		
Wide Receivers	2		
Quarterbacks	1		

Leonard Hewitt DB 5'10" 175 Lufkin, TX
Ranked No. 8 safety in nation and No. 15 Texas prospect by Rivals.com.

Jonathan Hollins DE 6'3" 228 Baton Rouge, LA
Named Class 3A Most Outstanding Defensive Player by LSWA.

Julius Howard LB 6'0" 220 Irving, TX
Recorded 110 tackles, 10 sacks and two INTs as a senior.

Adam James TE 6'3" 222 Celina, TX
Father, Craig, is current ABC and ESPN analyst, former SMU player.

Daniel Johnson S 6'3" 200 Houston, TX
Ranked No. 13 safety in nation and No. 16 Texas prospect by Rivals.

Richard Jones DT 6'2" 265 LaMarque, TX
Named Greater Houston Defensive Player of the Year by Touchdown Club.

SPOTLIGHT ON...TAYLOR POTTS

Quarterback • 6'5" • 210 • Abilene, TX

In the past, one of Mike Leach's recipes for success was to take quarterbacks that few other schools wanted and turn them into stars (i.e. Kliff Kingsbury and Sonny Cumbie). But in a continuing example of the respect Tech's passing game has gained in recent years, the Raiders are no longer "settling" for quarterback prospects.

Projected 2006 starting quarterback Graham Harrell was a heralded prospect in the 2004 recruiting class, while redshirt freshman Chris Todd was a headliner from Kentucky in the 2005 class.

The latest hot quarterback prospect on the roster, Taylor Potts, is from nearby Abilene (Texas) High, where he passed for 3,155 yards and 23 touchdowns as a senior. Potts chose Tech over traditional powerhouses Michigan, Notre Dame and Oklahoma.

Potts' decision and Tech's passing reputation also helped the Raiders land his high school teammate, all-state wide receiver Lyle Leong.

"Hopefully, we'll keep hooking up and doing great things together," Leong said of his continuing relationship with Potts.

Lyle Leong WR 6'2" 168 Abilene, TX
Teammate of QB Taylor Potts; planning on enrolling in January 2007.

Dimitri Lott OL 6'2" 271 Missouri City, TX
Ranked No. 39 offensive guard in the nation by Rivals.com.

Broderick Marshall DT 6'4" 278 Austin, TX
Named District 25 Class 4A Defensive MVP as a senior.

Franklin Mitchem S 6'3" 200 Klein, TX
Ranked No. 40 prospect in Texas by Scout.com.

Ofa Mohetau OL 6'3" 340 Euless, TX
College of Sequoias (Calif.) transfer ranked No. 2 juco by SuperPrep.

LaRon Moore DB 5'9" 179 Midwest City, TX
Named second-team All-USA by USA Today as a senior.

Chris Olson OL 6'5" 280 Dallas, TX
Member of 15–0 undefeated Class 4A state champion Highland Park HS.

Adrian Reese TE 6'6" 205 Longview, TX
Ranked No. 45 tight end in the nation by Rivals.com.

Trevor Reilly LB 6'5" 200 San Diego, CA
Will serve a two-year LDS Church mission before enrolling at Tech.

Jarell Routt DB 6'0" 187 Texas City, TX
Named honorable mention Class 4A All-State as a senior.

Jamar Wall DB 5'10" 180 Plainview, TX
Ranked No. 29 athlete in the nation by Rivals.com.

Dan'Tay Ward DT 6'2" 291 Waco, TX
Ranked No. 63 defensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

Brandon Williams DE 6'3" 245 Fort Worth, TX
Recorded 102 tackles and 11 sacks as a senior.

Marlon Williams LB 5'11" 209 Pflugerville, TX
Ranked No. 41 inside linebacker in the country by Rivals.com.

National Forecast **52** Big 12 North Prediction **5th**

Perhaps the best way to characterize the change in atmosphere around the Colorado football program is first to compare it to a smoggy day in Los Angeles.

That kind of cloud enveloped the program, starting with the recruiting scandal two years ago, and never really left. Not, that is, until new head coach Dan Hawkins burst onto the scene in January. What followed were smiles and enthusiasm and sky-diving and golf-driving competitions at the end of spring practice and terms such as "Hawk Love."

That smog? Gone. Replaced by clear, crisp, Rocky Mountain air.

But that's just Phase One.

What brought Hawkins to Colorado wasn't just wit and charm, but expertise, a thirst for a challenge and an enthusiasm to see it through to the end.

Well, CU is a challenge. Recruiting has declined. Wins in big games and meaningful games have declined. The feeling that the Buffs, a national champion in 1990, are still a player on a national landscape, has all but disappeared.

Hawkins is charged with changing both the perception and the results.

"When it really came down to it, deciding whether or not I was going to stay (at Boise State) or go, it really came down to: 'Are you going to be comfortable or are you going to have a sense of adventure?'" Hawkins says. "I'm more than willing to take on this challenge."

Quarterbacks Juniors Brian White and Bernard Jackson are neck-and-neck in the running for the starting position, and Hawkins doesn't like to use two quarterbacks so one will get the job during preseason camp. However, if White, a more traditional drop-back quarterback, ends up starting, there will likely be a "Jackson Package" installed for certain situations to take advantage of the athleticism and versatility he provides.

Jackson can make plays with his feet as well as his arm, though his passing needs some refining. He's already admitted to running too much in lieu of hanging in the pocket for a couple more beats and delivering the ball. Meanwhile, White starred in a replacement role in CU's loss to Clemson in the Champs Sports Bowl last season. He's tall (6'5"), has good accuracy and good velocity on his ball.

The offense will be tailored to whichever player wins the job. Senior James Cox missed the spring with a broken hand and is considered a long shot to start because he's missed too much valuable practice time.

The coach's son, Cody Hawkins, is expected to redshirt. He is a top prospect who is considered the Buffs' quarterback of the future.

Running Backs Despite a background of spreading out the field and putting pressure on the defense via the pass, Hawkins insists the Buffs' offensive attack will begin with a strong ground game. Expect junior Hugh Charles to start here. He's the kind of back Hawkins likes — one who can take the ball on a hand-off, or catch it out of the backfield. Charles is explosive and has the ability to score anytime he touches the ball.

Charles averaged a respectable 4.8 yards per carry en route to an 842-yard season. He also caught 26 passes for 226 yards and one touchdown last year.

Beyond that, this position is filled with little-to-unknown depth. Senior transfer Mell Holliday is on track to be the backup, but there are a host of others that will vie for time as well.

In Hawkins' systems in the past this truly has been a utility position. Players at this position need to be able to do a number of things, and he'll make sure that's the case through future recruiting. The question is: How many of those types of individuals are currently available to him?

NUMBERS GAME

3 Former coach Bill McCartney, speaking on a local radio station, asked CU fans to give new coach Dan Hawkins three years to turn the program around.

Receivers The tight ends were the biggest beneficiaries in the previous regime's offense, but, under Hawkins, the wide receivers are back in focus. They could be spotted walking around campus with big smiles on their faces during the spring because they knew they'd be used more under Hawkins than they ever have before.

None of the returning receivers averaged more than 11 yards per catch last season.

The best of the bunch are Dusty Sprague, Patrick Williams and Blake Mackey, who is expected to return from an ACL injury this fall. There is an intriguing playmaker in Stephone Robinson and other youthful talent as well.

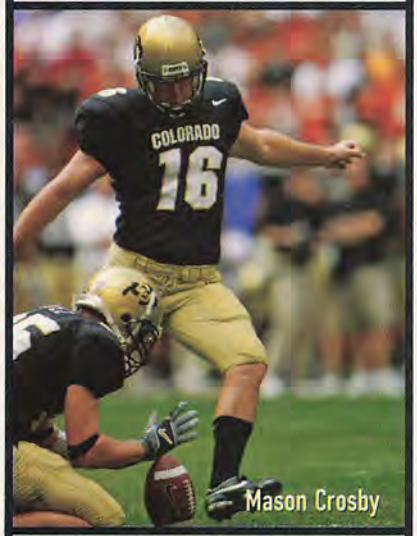
And the tight ends will get work as well. They can take heart in knowing that Hawkins has had players, like former Boise State standout Jeb Putzier, drafted in the NFL. What their role will be from game-to-game, however, may be fairly unpredictable.

Offensive Linemen There is a major switch in philosophy here from previous coach Gary Barnett and offensive coordinator Shawn Watson, to Hawkins and new coordinator Mark Helfrich.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BUFFALOES

For Colorado to have any success this season, players have to have hit the books — the playbooks — over the summer in preparation for the season. Sloppy execution was the lasting mark the team made in the spring after being force-fed as much of the new coaching staff's schemes as players could handle. Studying, and on-field work during the summer will be critical. If the Buffs are productive and build upon what they learned in the spring, then expect a competitive team to step on the field starting the first week against Montana State. If not, then expect CU to struggle while it goes through the many growing pains associated with learning a new system. Beyond that, the Buffs need the new starting quarterback to be solid in order for Dan Hawkins self-proclaimed "just score" offense to do exactly that. There is talent, if not a great deal of depth, at the skill positions and offensive line, and the defense is mostly intact from a solid unit of a year ago. There is enough there for CU to get to a bowl game, but it all depends on how seriously CU players take their summer work.



Mason Crosby

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Montana State	W
S.	**9**	**#Colorado State**	*
S.	16	Arizona State	L
S.	23	at Georgia	L
S.	**30**	**at Missouri**	*
O.	7	Baylor	W
O.	14	Texas Tech	L
O.	21	at Oklahoma	L
O.	**28**	**at Kansas**	*
N.	4	Kansas State	W
N.	**11**	**Iowa State**	*
N.	24	at Nebraska	L
		#Denver, CO	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Charles: Larry Smith; Crosby: Icon SMI

Colorado RB

Hugh Charles

The zone-blocking scheme that was the staple of Watson's offense is all but gone. Asking offensive linemen to learn more than one position, or to flip-flop from play-to-play, depending on which side of the field was the strong side, is out as well. Under Hawkins, if the player is a guard, he'll be a guard; if he's a tackle, he'll be a tackle.

Some of CU's better players on the team are along the line. Center Mark Fenton is a postseason awards candidate as is guard Brian Daniels. Guard Jack Tipton and tackle Tyler Polumbus are both coming off of injuries but should step in and be starters on what has the potential to be a solid line.

Defensive Linemen Question marks surround the Buffs' defensive line. Playmakers have yet to be identified. Depth is an issue. It's just not as strong a position as it has been for CU in the past and figures to be in the future.

But there are guys who may break out.

Two such players are defensive end Maurice Lucas and defensive tackle George Hypolite. Both are sophomores, and both possess a solid foundation of skills that suggest they could be future stars. Abraham Wright is a burgeoning star at defensive end.

Linebackers Jordon Dizon and Thaddaeus Washington anchor a solid group of linebackers, nearly always a position of strength on the Buffaloes' defense. Now, outside of that, this will be a somewhat untested group.

A trio of guys could play big roles here — Brad Jones, Joe Sanders and Marcus Burton. If they play well, the linebackers will be the unquestioned strength of the defense. One thing is for sure — they are critical in defensive coordinator Ron Collins' stop-the-run-first scheme.

Defensive Backs Injuries and a suspension have changed the look of the secondary. At the end of last season, it was thought that this would be CU's greatest strength on defense — and it still might be — but work needs to be done to get it there.

Defensive backs have been happy working with secondary coach Greg Brown, who brings NFL experience back to college. He served in the same capacity last season with the New Orleans Saints.

If sophomore Gardner McKay can step up, he'll give the Buffs stability at right corner. Terrence Wheatley will start at left cornerback. Expect to see J.J. Billingsley and up-and-coming Ryan Walters at safety, where there is plenty of depth.

Specialists CU returns the nation's best placekicker in senior Mason Crosby. His accuracy (21-of-28) was nothing special, but Crosby's distance was remarkable in 2005; he connected on 8-of-11 from 40-to-49 and 5-of-7 from 50-to-59.

At the new coaching staff's request, Crosby might double-up and punt as well, but Matt DiLallo is also in the running at punter.

The biggest loss, however, might be the departure of long snapper Greg Pace. Snapping for kicks and punts was a problem during the spring, but coaches hope that true freshman Justin Drescher can come in and stabilize the shaky position.

Robinson, a promising young receiver, will likely handle both kickoff and punt returns. He averaged 9.9 yards on punts last year and brought one back for a score.

Brian Daniels

RISING STAR

Ryan Walters, son of former Colorado standout Marc Walters, transitioned from high school quarterback to college defensive back with solid results. He starred in practices in 2005 but played sparingly. Now he's in the mix to be a starter at safety. Expect this to be Walters' breakout season.

KEY BUFFALOES

Hugh Charles, RB
This 5'8", 185-pound mighty-mite is explosive and versatile.

Mark Fenton, C
Has worked to become one of the nation's premier centers.

Thaddaeus Washington, LB
Led the team with 112 tackles in 2005.

Jordon Dizon, LB
Junior is a ball-hawk and should be among tackle leaders this season.

Mason Crosby, K
Powerful kicker pleased coaches and fans by deciding to return for his senior year.

KEY LOSSES

Joe Klopfenstein, TE
Buffs must replace another great tight end.

Joel Klatt, QB
Record-setting quarterback was the team's leader.

Brian Iwuh, LB
Hard-hitter was arguably CU's best defensive player.

James Garee, DL
Garee anchored an unheralded Buff defensive line.

John Torp, P
Torp was one of the top punters in the nation last season.

Larry Smith

SCOUTING THE BUFFALOES

Opposing coaches size up Colorado: "I hated to see Gary Barnett go because I thought he was a scapegoat for some of the things that happened there. But Dan Hawkins is a good football coach and a great offensive innovator. He's going to be successful, but it's going to take him some time to implement his offense and system....I'm not sure there's an awful lot of talent left at Colorado. They'll have a new quarterback, so there are going to be a lot of growing pains on offense....I thought the defense quit last year. How do you give up 30 points to Nebraska and 70 to Texas? They've got to get better off the edge and rush the passer with a vengeance. That really put a lot of pressure on their secondary last season....It's going to be a rebuilding job there, but they've got everything in place, and they're playing in the North so it won't take long."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (5)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	4	Patrick Williams	So.
WR	**83**	**Dusty Sprague**	**Jr.**
LT	**76**	**Edwin Harrison**	**Jr.**
LG	**66**	**Brian Daniels**	**Sr.**
C	**58**	**Mark Fenton**	**Sr.**
RG	63	Jack Tipton	Sr.
RT	77	Tyler Polumbus	Jr.
TE	30	Paul Creighton	Sr.
QB	3	Brian White	Jr.
FB	42	Samson Jagoras	Jr.
RB	**2**	**Hugh Charles**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	9	Blake Mackey	Sr.
WR	1	Stephone Robinson	Jr.
LT	72	Devin Head	Fr.
LG	57	Bryce MacMartin	Sr.
C	50	Zach Jones	Fr.
RG	75	Daniel Sanders	So.
RT	60	Paul Backowski	Fr.
TE	46	Dan Goettsch	Sr.
QB	7	Bernard Jackson	Jr.
FB	34	Jake Behrens	Fr.
RB	37	Mell Holliday	Sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	33	Walter Boye-Doe	Sr.
DT	86	George Hypolite	So.
DT	94	Brandon Nicolas	So.
DE	**53**	**Abraham Wright**	**Sr.**
SLB	**44**	**Jordon Dizon**	**Jr.**
MLB	**49**	**Thaddaeus Washington**	**Sr.**
WLB	40	Brad Jones	So.
CB	26	Terrence Wheatley	Jr.
CB	6	Gardner McKay	So.
ROV	15	Ryan Walters	So.
FS	**5**	**J.J. Billingsley**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**91**	**Maurice Lucas**	**So.**
DT	97	Taj Kaynor	Fr.
DT	96	Marcus Jones	Sr.
DE	47	Alonzo Barrett	Jr.
SLB	54	Marcus Burton	So.
MLB	34	R.J. Brown	So.
WLB	13	Joe Sanders	Jr.
CB	10	Terry Washington	Sr.
CB	42	Ben Burney	So.
ROV	3	Tyrone Henderson	Sr.
FS	**22**	**Lorenzo Sims**	**Sr.**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	16	Mason Crosby	Sr.
P	14	Matt DiLallo	Fr.
KR	1	Stephone Robinson	Jr.
PR	1	Stephone Robinson	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 COLORADO ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
12 Brown, Mack	QB	6'3"	215	Fr.	Overland Park, KS
10 Cox, James	QB	6'3"	215	Sr.	Simi Valley, CA
5 Devenny, Patrick	QB	6'3"	225	Fr.	Roseville, CA
7 Jackson, Bernard	QB	6'0"	195	Jr.	Corona, CA
3 White, Brian	QB	6'5"	225	Jr.	Mission Viejo, CA

Running Backs	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
34 Behrens, Jake	FB	5'11"	235	Fr.	Omaha, NE
21 Caesar, Brandon	TB	6'0"	205	Sr.	Broussard, PQ
2 Charles, Hugh	TB	5'8"	185	Jr.	Southlake, TX
22 Ellis, Byron	TB	6'0"	205	Jr.	Culver City, CA
48 Garratt, Matt	FB	5'10"	220	Fr.	Danville, CA
37 Holliday, Mell	TB	5'8"	205	Sr.	Omaha, NE
42 Jagoras, Samson	FB	5'10"	225	Jr.	Arcadia, CA
23 Moyd, Kevin	TB	5'8"	185	Fr.	Miramar, FL

Receivers	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
81 Adams, Justin	TE	6'1"	225	So.	Denver, CO
8 Barnett, Alvin	WR	6'0"	195	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
16 Crawford, Cody	WR	5'11"	170	So.	San Diego, CA
30 Creighton, Paul	TE	6'5"	245	Sr.	Niwot, CO
84 DeVree, Tyson	TE	6'6"	245	Jr.	Hudsonville, MI
32 English, Brandon	TE	6'4"	235	Sr.	Leawood, KS
87 Geer, Riar	TE	6'3"	245	Fr.	Grand Junction, CO
46 Goettsch, Dan	TE	6'5"	245	Sr.	Austin, MN
85 Holz, Nick	WR	5'11"	180	Sr.	Danville, CA
6 Joseph, Reggie	WR	6'0"	185	Jr.	La Place, LA
13 Kachmer, Michael	WR	6'0"	175	Fr.	Wheaton, IL
19 Lemon, Tim	WR	6'0"	205	So.	La Mairada, CA
9 Mackey, Blake	WR	6'3"	200	Sr.	Bakersfield, CA
38 McBride, Chase	WR	5'8"	160	Jr.	Thornton, CO
1 Robinson, Stephone	WR	5'9"	185	Jr.	Denver, CO
88 Shanahan, Devin	TE	6'5"	210	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, CO
15 Sherman III, Charlie	WR	6'1"	195	So.	Sacramento, CA
83 Sprague, Dusty	WR	6'4"	190	Jr.	Holyoke, CO
4 Williams, Patrick	WR	6'2"	195	So.	DeSoto, TX
80 Yates, Jarrell	WR	6'0"	185	Fr.	Denver, CO

Offensive Linemen	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
60 Backowski, Paul	OL	6'6"	285	Fr.	Foley, MN
66 Daniels, Brian	OL	6'4"	300	Sr.	Evergreen, CO
58 Fenton, Mark	C	6'4"	295	Sr.	Inglewood, CA
61 Grubin, Tom	C	6'0"	285	Fr.	The Woodlands, TX
76 Harrison, Edwin	OL	6'4"	300	Jr.	Houston, TX
68 Hauck, Jeremy	OL	6'4"	275	Fr.	Niwot, CO
72 Head, Devin	OL	6'4"	275	Fr.	Corona, CA
50 Jones, Zach	OL	6'3"	270	Fr.	Aurora, CO
57 MacMartin, Bryce	C	6'2"	290	Sr.	San Francisco, CA
77 Polumbus, Tyler	OL	6'8"	285	Jr.	Englewood, CO
75 Sanders, Daniel	OL	6'3"	300	So.	Vista, CA
63 Tipton, Jack	OL	6'3"	295	Sr.	Arvada, CO

Defensive Linemen	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
47 Barrett, Alonzo	DE	6'3"	240	Jr.	Alabaster, AL
33 Boye-Doe, Walter	DE	6'2"	245	Sr.	Keller, TX
86 Hypolite, George	DT	6'2"	265	So.	Los Angeles, CA
96 Jones, Marcus	DT	6'4"	295	Sr.	Klein, TX
97 Kaynor, Taj	DE	6'5"	250	Fr.	Englewood, CO
51 Ligon, Alex	DE	6'3"	265	Sr.	Torrance, CA
91 Lucas, Maurice	DE	6'4"	240	So.	Denver, CO
94 Nicolas, Brandon	DT	6'3"	270	So.	Santa Ana, CA
53 Wright, Abraham	DE	6'3"	240	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK
92 Zimmerer, Sam	DE	6'3"	245	Fr.	Colorado Springs, CO

Linebackers	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
55 Ackermann, Jason	LB	6'1"	225	Sr.	Louisville, CO
34 Brown, R.J.	LB	6'1"	225	So.	Honolulu, HI
54 Burton, Marcus	LB	6'0"	230	So.	Channelview, TX
32 Cantrell, Maurice	LB	6'0"	225	So.	Cedar Rapids, IA
19 Carpenter, Ben	LB	6'3"	225	Sr.	Des Moines, IA
37 Cusworth, Chad	LB	5'11"	220	Sr.	Highlands Ranch, CO
44 Dizon, Jordon	LB	6'0"	220	Jr.	Kauai, HI
40 Jones, Brad	LB	6'4"	220	So.	East Lansing, MI
13 Sanders, Joe	LB	6'3"	220	Jr.	Nashville, TN
45 Smart, Jeff	LB	6'0"	210	Fr.	Boulder, CO
41 Stengel, Bryan	LB	6'2"	205	Fr.	Durango, CO
49 Washington, Thaddaeus	LB	5'11"	245	Sr.	Marrero, LA

Defensive Backs	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
35 Adams, Joel	DB	5'11"	185	Fr.	Steamboat Spg., CO
5 Billingsley, J.J.	S	5'11"	185	Sr.	Aurora, CO
18 Brooks, Dominique	S	6'1"	180	Sr.	Mesquite, TX
31 Burl, Gerett	CB	5'10"	160	Sr.	Libertyville, IL
42 Burney, Ben	CB	5'11"	190	So.	Lone Tree, CO
36 Foster, Reggie	S	5'11"	190	Fr.	Long Beach, CA
25 Harris, Lionel	S	6'0"	190	Jr.	Manvel, TX
3 Henderson, Tyrone	S	5'10"	180	Sr.	Oakland, CA
6 McKay, Gardner	CB	5'11"	160	So.	Inglewood, CA
22 Sims, Lorenzo	CB	5'11"	185	Sr.	Fresno, CA
15 Walters, Ryan	S	5'11"	200	So.	Aurora, CO
10 Washington, Terry	CB	5'10"	195	Sr.	St. Louis, MO
21 Washington, Vance	CB	5'10"	185	Sr.	Friendswood, TX
8 Weller, Justin	S	5'11"	205	So.	Westminster, CO
26 Wheatley, Terrence	CB	5'10"	175	Jr.	Richardson, TX
20 Wilson, Terry	CB	5'11"	200	So.	Chino, CA
23 Yegge, Matt	S	6'3"	200	So.	Longmont, CO

Specialists	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
20 Agostino, Daniel	P	6'2"	215	Fr.	Katonah, NY
16 Crosby, Mason	K	6'2"	210	Sr.	Georgetown, TX
14 DiLallo, Matt	P	6'1"	190	Fr.	Wellington, FL
39 Eberhart, Kevin	K	5'10"	190	Jr.	Broomfield, CO
18 Garden, Isaac	K	6'0"	180	Jr.	Encino, CA
4 Suazo, Thomas	P	5'11"	180	So.	Glenwood Spg., CO

Head Coach: Dan Hawkins • Record at School: First Season • Career Record: 93–21–1 (10 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Helfrich • Defensive Coordinator: Ron Collins • Boulder, Colo. • Folsom Field (53,750)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Joel Klatt	400	241	2,696	14	8
James Cox	**29**	**13**	**93**	**0**	**0**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Hugh Charles	**176**	**842**	**4.8**	**6**
Lawrence Vickers	67	243	3.6	9
Byron Ellis	**75**	**216**	**2.9**	**0**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Dusty Sprague	**43**	**468**	**10.9**	**1**
Evan Judge	40	567	14.2	2
Joe Klopfenstein	32	463	14.5	4

Kicking: **Mason Crosby**, 21-28 FGs, 31-31 XPs, 94 points
Tackles: **Thaddaeus Washington**, 112
J.J. Billingsley, 85
Sacks: **Thaddaeus Washington**, 5 **Abraham Wright**, 5
Interceptions: Four players tied with 2

Returning Players in Bold

Thaddaeus Washington

Larry Smith

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Knee preservation Call it a weird quirk, but Hawkins is a fan of knee braces. In order to prevent injuries to his quarterbacks and offensive linemen, one of his first edicts was to mandate players at each position to wear knee braces. Quarterbacks were outfitted with only one, on the plant leg, while offensive linemen were outfitted with braces for both knees.

Burl suspended Senior cornerback Gerett Burl was suspended twice by Hawkins during spring practice, leaving his status for the fall in serious doubt. Burl started at corner for the Buffs in 2005.

Finnegan replaced After CU officials initially eased his concerns by assuring him he'd stay despite the coaching change, Greg Finnegan, CU's strength and conditioning coach, was fired in April. Finnegan, who had become very popular with the players in just one season at CU, was replaced by Jeff Pitman. Pitman was Hawkins' strength and conditioning coach at Boise State.

Big attendance CU's spring football game was attended by over 100 recruits — players who will be playing this fall and those the Buffs hope to lure to Boulder.

One-yard success Last season, the Colorado offense had six plays from the one-yard line and scored five touchdowns. The Buffs' opponents, on the other hand, only scored touchdowns on seven of their 12 plays from the one.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 7–6 (5–3 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	Colorado State	W	31–28	54,972
Sept. 10	New Mexico State	W	39– 0	44,742
Sept. 24	at Miami	L	3–23	51,229
Oct. 1	at Oklahoma State	W	34– 0	47,908
Oct. 8	Texas A&M	W	41–20	50,686
Oct. 15	at Texas	L	17–42	83,474
Oct. 22	Kansas	W	44–13	48,025
Oct. 29	at Kansas State	W	23–20	43,890
Nov. 5	Missouri	W	41–12	49,196
Nov. 12	at Iowa State	L	16–30	49,242
Nov. 25	Nebraska	L	3–30	54,841
Dec. 3	%Texas	L	3–70	71,107
Dec. 27	#Clemson	L	10–19	31,470
	%Big 12 Championship			
	#Champs Sports Bowl			

2006 RECRUITING

Hawkins had a month to piece together his first recruiting class after taking over as CU head coach in January. He took that and then some, signing additional players well into the spring such as defensive back Jalil Brown.

"Well, when you jump on board with three weeks left in recruiting, you just have to go like heck to make that up as much as you can," Hawkins said. "But when you go through a whole year-long process and coaches and players and parents have much more familiarity with you, that's a much easier deal."

Hawkins' stated primary objective was to focus on the lines — both offensive and defensive — bringing in big numbers to add depth to two areas that were notoriously thin during the Gary Barnett era. He says that will not change in the future. By the end of April, Hawkins had signed a combined nine offensive and defensive linemen.

For skill, Hawkins got one of the steals of the recruiting period, signing highly-productive San Diego running back Demetrius Sumler. The 5'11", 215-pound Sumler ran for 2,467 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior, and over 5,600 yards in his career at Cathedral Catholic. He had his prep jersey retired by the San Diego Hall of Champions.

The most anticipated signing was that of Hawkins' son, Cody. An Elite 11 quarterback, Hawkins was rumored to be leaning toward joining his father in Boulder but kept the suspense alive until Signing Day. Hawkins originally planned to grayshirt, but he and the coach later changed their minds, and he'll practice in the fall.

B.J. Beatty LB 6'2" 210 Kaaawa, HI
Named Oahu Interscholastic Association Player of the Year and first-team all-state by the Honolulu Advertiser as a senior. Ranked No. 5 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com. Won two state championships during career.

Quinton Borders OL 6'5" 295 Lexington, KY
One of 11 linemen on Lexington Herald-Leaders' Kentucky Top 50 team.

Bill Boyer OL 6'4" 310 Lakewood, CO
Named first-team Class 4A All-State by the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News. Ranked No. 24 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com.

Jason Brace DT 6'4" 255 Spanaway, WA
Ranked No. 10 prospect in Washington and No. 51 defensive end in the nation by Rivals.com. Recorded 14 tackles for a loss and seven sacks as a senior, despite playing most of the year with a torn rotator cuff.

Cha'pelle Brown CB 5'8" 165 La Puente, CA
Named Santa Clara Valley League MVP. Totaled 800 receiving yards and nine touchdowns on offense; eight INTs and one return touchdown on defense in '05.

Jalil Brown CB 6'1" 205 Phoenix, AZ
Rushed for 1,767 yards and 23 TDs as a senior. Will play CB at CU.

Justin Drescher OL 6'2" 245 Southlake, TX
Won back-to-back Class 5A state championships as well as national championships awarded by USA Today as a junior and senior at Carroll.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Offensive Linemen	5	California	8
Defensive Backs	4	Colorado	4
Defensive Linemen	4	Hawaii	2
Running Backs	3	Texas	2
Tight Ends	3	American Samoa	1
Linebackers	2	Arizona	1
Quarterbacks	1	Idaho	1
Wide Receivers	1	Kentucky	1
		Florida	1
		New Jersey	1
		Washington	1

Erick Faatagi OL 6'3" 340 Carson, CA
Allowed only one sack as a sophomore at El Camino (Calif.) College.

Steve Fendry TE 6'4" 235 Castle Rock, CO
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Colorado and No. 28 tight end in the country by Rivals.com. Named first-team all-state by the Denver Post in 2005.

Jonathan Hawkins CB 5'10" 180 Perris, CA
Named top 25 cornerback in Southern California by the L.A. Times.

Marquez Herrod DE 6'3" 235 Escondido, CA
Named second-team All-San Diego County as a senior. Ranked No. 20 weak-side linebacker in the nation by Rivals.com. Also ran track.

SPOTLIGHT ON...CODY HAWKINS

Quarterback • 5'11" • 185 • Boise, ID

There were good days and bad days. Tough decisions are almost always that way. Cody Hawkins was faced with one of his most challenging choices: Should he follow his dad, Dan, who had just become the new head coach at Colorado, to Boulder? Or should he stay in his hometown of Boise and play for the Broncos?

There were pros and cons to each, and Dan Hawkins made sure that Cody knew without a shadow of a doubt that being the quarterback and the coaches' son is a potentially volatile mix. Anything goes wrong, and the favoritism arguments begin on the spot. The pressure is ratcheted up that much more.

But, like his dad, Cody isn't one to shy away from a challenge. And so, after the back and forth mind games, he cast his lot with the Buffs, his dad, and to shouldering the load.

Hakwins was ranked among the top 20 quarterbacks in the nation and was the consensus top player in Idaho. At the 2005 Elite 11 Quarterback Camp, he was ranked the fourth-best quarterback.

Sherman Lang WR 5'11" 180 Boca Raton, FL
Named Broward County Offensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Eric Lawson DT 6'3" 265 Sedalia, CO
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by the Denver Post as a senior. Ranked No. 14 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com.

Justin Nonu DT 6'2" 270 Vista, CA
Named San Diego County Defensive Player of the Year by the Union-Tribune.

Thomas Perez RB 6'1" 220 Compton, CA
Compton (Calif.) CC transfer ranked No. 50 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com.

JasLee Rouson RB 5'10" 225 Flanders, NJ
Named first-team All-Mercer County on offense and defense as a senior.

Wes Simon OL 6'2" 300 Plano, TX
Ranked No. 12 center in the nation by Rivals.com as a senior.

Michael Sipili LB 6'1" 235 Honolulu, HI
Named first-team all-state by the Honolulu Advertiser as a senior. Ranked No. 4 prospect in Hawaii by Rivals.com.

Jimmy Smith DB 6'2" 195 Colton, CA
Recorded 53 receptions for 1,123 yards and 14 TDs as a senior.

Nate Solder TE 6'8" 245 Buena Vista, CO
Ranked No. 8 prospect in Colorado and No. 45 tight end in the nation by Rivals.com. Also played center on HS basketball team.

Demetrius Sumler RB 5'11" 215 San Diego, CA
San Diego's all-time leading rusher with 5,650 career yards and 67 TDs. Named Eastern League Offensive Player of the Year and North County Player of the Year. Rushed for 2,467 yards and 31 TDs as a senior.

Ino Vitale Jr. TE 6'5" 245 American Samoa
Named to All-Samoa All-Star team and Samoa Bowl participant in '05.

National Forecast **47** | Big 12 North Prediction **3rd**

To some, Dan McCarney has hung on awfully long for a coach who is 25 games under .500 for his career. At Iowa State, it's all about perspective.

Before McCarney, this was a school that hadn't had a winning season since 1989 or a bowl appearance since the late 70s. He's rewritten the history books at ISU, though now that supporters have tasted success and the traditionally underachieving team has been on the cusp of the Big 12 Championship Game the past two seasons, mid-level bowls don't seem to be cutting it anymore in the eyes of Cyclone Nation.

"There's stuff out there talking about mediocrity with this program," McCarney says. "I don't know what people have been smoking lately. There's been more wins (39) over the last six years than there has been since Teddy Roosevelt was president — and we play a little tougher schedule now then when Teddy was in office. We've got good things going on in the program."

New athletic director Jamie Pollard had made two major coaching changes in his first six months, proving he isn't going to stand pat. With a budget as tight as ISU's, he can't afford to lose ground when it comes to the department's biggest moneymaker.

A losing season would not find McCarney looking for work, but it wouldn't be out of the question for Pollard to start thinking ahead — especially considering the big plans he's got for Jack Trice Stadium and the athletic department as a whole.

"We've got a good plan. We've got good kids and a good staff. I make no apologies," says McCarney, now the dean of Big 12 coaches. "I've seen administrators and coaches come and go … and I'm still here and still standing. I'm still the head coach at Iowa State and damn proud of it."

Quarterbacks Three years into what undoubtedly will be a start-to-finish career as Iowa State's starting quarterback, Bret Meyer looks ready to become one of the Big 12's marquee players. With the wealth of talent on offense, the junior should eclipse both the career passing and total offense marks this season. Meyer's decision-making has always been good. Now he is throwing the ball better and more accurately. Protecting him will be critical. Meyer was sacked a league-high 39 times last year and may not last if he absorbs that many hits again.

Strong-armed backup Kyle Van Winkle has logged more playing time during spring games than the regular season.

Running Backs There should be better depth than last season, but it still comes down to whether or not Stevie Hicks can stay healthy for a full year. ISU won just one game when Hicks was not in the starting lineup. The senior tailback is an average runner. His worth comes with ball security and blocking.

Backup Jason Harris is one of the fastest Cyclones but must improve his handling of the ball if he expects to play.

Sophomore Jason Scales — who came into last season No. 2 behind Hicks — continues to have problems with his surgically-repaired knee and his injury troubles could force one or two of the four tailback signees into the mix.

In short-yardage and goal line situations it is fullback Ryan Kock who gets the call — and usually delivers. The senior had a whopping 13 touchdowns last year.

NUMBERS GAME

.833 Iowa State's three South Division opponents this season (Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech) had a Big 12 winning percentage of .833 last year.

Receivers This may be the most dangerous group of receivers and tight ends in the Big 12. Most worrisome to opposing defenses is 6'5" junior Todd Blythe. In only two seasons he's become one of the most prolific pass-catchers in school history, already grabbing an ISU-record 18 touchdowns.

Converted quarterback Austin Flynn led the team in receptions a year ago and probably will again. Senior Jon Davis tore his Achilles in March but is expected back at some point. Still, he is being replaced by R.J. Sumrall, a sophomore with strong blood lines — NFL wideouts Reggie Wayne (Colts) and Robert Ferguson (Packers) are his cousins.

Also on the radar should be big-bodied Marquis Hamilton, who nearly played last year as a true freshman. Tight ends Ben Barkema and Walter Nickel are threats down the middle of the field.

Offensive Linemen Offensive efficiency begins and ends up front. That is a good thing for ISU, which could feature five 300-plus pound senior starters.

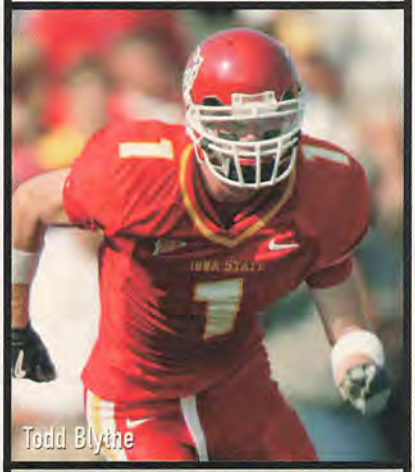
"That's huge. We're going to have a lot of juniors and seniors on the field," Meyer says.

Tackle Aaron Brant and guard Seth Zehr are both multi-year starters, with Brant having been in the lineup since he was a true freshman. Center Scott Stephenson, a transfer from Minnesota, was an All-Big 12 pick in his first season at ISU. The senior is recovering from shoulder surgery but should be fine by two-a-days. Super-sized twins Scott and Paul Fisher do not have a wealth of

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE CYCLONES

Another gift-wrapped shot at winning the Big 12's North Division isn't likely to happen for a third straight season. If the Cyclones are going to win the first outright conference championship in school history, they'll have to earn it. The schedule is brutal, with nine bowl teams and Division I-AA runner-up Northern Iowa. The North remains in a rebuilding mode with a pair of new coaches (Kansas State, Colorado), a new quarterback (Missouri) and the rest of the teams in the division (Kansas and Nebraska) still trying to establish themselves. Quarterback Bret Meyer has the tools to be a first-team All-Big 12 performer. He'll need to display them and stay injury-free while doing it. If the junior, a starter since he was a freshman, is forced to sit for any length of time, Iowa State will be in real trouble. Also critical to the season is the health of veteran tailback Stevie Hicks. Only one of ISU's victories last season came without the powerful Hicks in the starting lineup. The Cyclones are possibly headed to a sixth bowl game in seven years, but a difficult schedule and some issues on defense could keep ISU from being a serious threat to win the North.

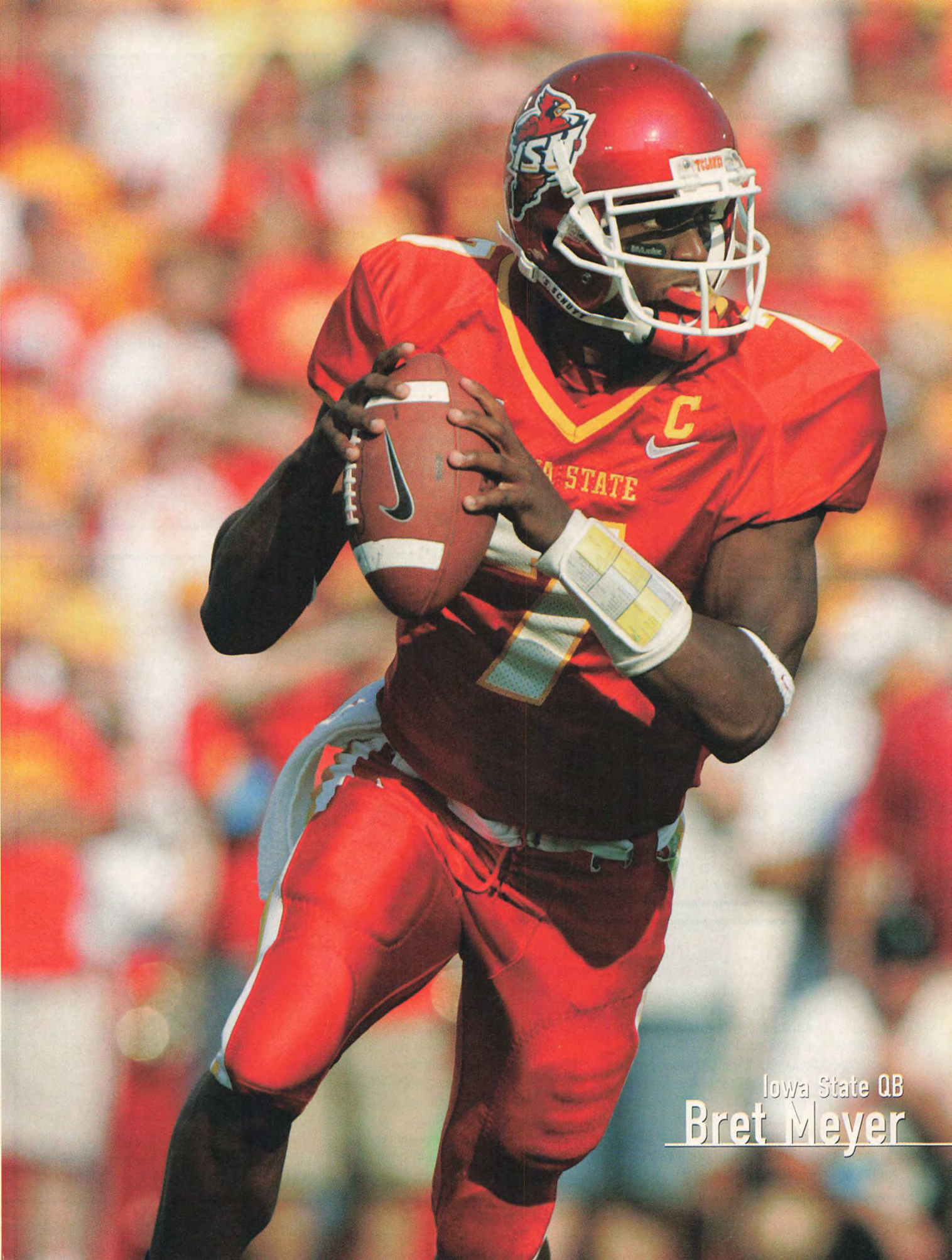

Todd Blythe

2006 SCHEDULE

A.	**31**	**Toledo**	*
S.	9	UNLV	W
S.	16	at Iowa	L
S.	23	at Texas	L
S.	30	Northern Iowa	W
O.	7	Nebraska	L
O.	14	at Oklahoma	L
O.	21	Texas Tech	L
O.	28	at Kansas State	W
N.	**4**	**Kansas**	*
N.	**11**	**at Colorado**	*
N.	**18**	**Missouri**	*

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Blythe, Meyer: Larry Smith



Iowa State QB
Bret Meyer

on-field experience but are 25 years old and previously played at BYU and Dixie State (Utah) College. Two junior college transfers could play their way into the lineup — or at least be in the two-deep to help provide depth.

Defensive Linemen Two starting spots you can lock up and throw away the key. The last two may not be figured out for a while. When two all-conference caliber players like defensive end Jason Berryman and nose guard Nick Leaders depart, those are significant holes to fill.

Seniors Brent Curvey (tackle) and Shawn Moorehead (end) are proven Big 12 players, Curvey having earned first-team all-conference honors last year. The dropoff at end doesn't look like it will be as severe as tackle. Transfer Collins Eboh or junior Kurtis Taylor have the physical tools to get the job done.

On the inside it will be some combination of Bryce Braaksma, Matt Berg, Stephon Dale and probably a newcomer or two taking the place of Leaders, who started all but the opening game of his four-year career.

Linebackers The Cyclones expected to have to fill two spots, but all three positions will have brand new starters this fall.

Senior middle linebacker Matt Robertson tested positive for a performance enhancing substance banned by the NCAA. So, part-time 2005 starter Adam Carper jumps back into the starting lineup and moves Michigan State transfer Tyrone McKenzie into the middle. McKenzie played for the Spartans as a freshman but had to sit out last year per NCAA rules.

"I'm ready to play football and have fun once again," McKenzie says.

Junior Alvin Bowen is a physical presence at the other linebacker spot. Cyclone fans had better hope for health with these three men. Linebacker is another spot where some members of the incoming class could make an impact. Kris Means is a player coaches are high on.

Defensive Backs Cornerback DeAndre Jackson is without question the Cyclones' top defensive back. He also is the only one with much experience. The secondary was hit hardest by graduation with three senior starters moving on. Replacing them are last year's nickel back-turned free safety Jon Banks, sophomore cornerback Chris Singleton and undersized redshirt freshman James Smith at strong safety. Coaches love Smith's aggressiveness and tackling ability, but they'd like to see him improve against the pass.

Last year, the four starting defensive backs combined for 17 of the team's 22 interceptions. Jackson tied for the league lead with five. He can be a difference-maker, but opponents figure to throw to the other side of field as much as possible.

Specialists Defense isn't the only spot the Cyclones were hurt by graduation. Punter Troy Blankenship, kickoff specialist Tony Yelk and long snapper Landon Schrage have all moved on, leaving a hole bigger than most realize it to be.

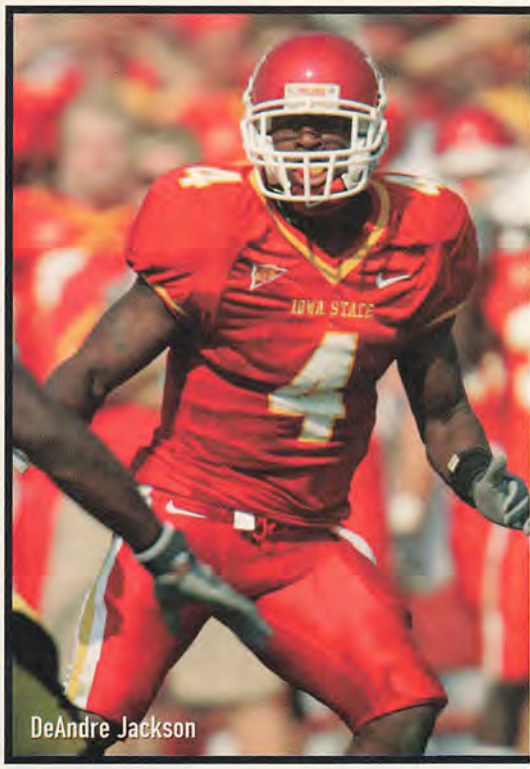
Redshirt freshman walk-on Michael Brandtner has the punting job locked down heading into preseason practice. Newcomer Matt Purvis will be snapping Brandtner the ball. Placekicker Bret Culbertson figures to continue his run as the Cyclones' No. 1 kicker. A former walk-on, Culbertson has hit 20-of- 26 career field goals and all 50 PAT tries, though has a tough time with pressure kicks.

RISING STAR

After a season as a special team standout and part-time player on defense, Alvin Bowen is ready to make a big-time impact as an every down linebacker. The former junior college transfer has always been fast and physical. He now has the experience to be a force in the Big 12.

SCOUTING THE CYCLONES

Opposing coaches size up Iowa State: "Dan McCarney has really done a good job at Iowa State, and I'm not sure a lot of people have really taken notice. They've done a better job in the passing game the last couple of seasons. (Quarterback) Bret Meyer is a tall kid with an accurate arm and he can make most of the throws. (Receiver) Todd Blythe is a tall guy that gets open and has dependable hands. They have two really good bookend tackles (Aaron Brant and Scott Fisher), guys that could be playing in the NFL pretty soon. You haven't seen those kind of guys at Iowa State in the past. ... They've got to get better on defense and it's going to be tough because they lost a lot of players over there. Losing (linebacker) Matt Robertson (for performance enhancing drugs) really hurts them because he was kind of the center of the defense. The secondary really struggled and you can take advantage of them in the passing game."



DeAndre Jackson

KEY CYCLONES

Bret Meyer, QB
Third-year starter should be All-Big 12 candidate.

Todd Blythe, WR
Primed for another year of rewriting ISU's record books.

DeAndre Jackson, CB
Playmaker tied for the team lead with five INTs and forced four fumbles.

Brent Curvey, DT
Will anchor Cyclones' young front four.

Scott Stephenson, C
Ex-defensive tackle was All-Big 12 in first season.

KEY LOSSES

Tim Dobbins, LB
Physical linebacker recorded 103 tackles in his final season.

Nick Leaders, NG
Started all but first of his 50 career games.

Jason Berryman, DE
Top pass rusher isn't coming back after latest trouble.

Nik Moser, SS
One of three senior starters missing from secondary.

Tony Yelk, K
Kickoff specialist booted more than half for touchbacks.

Larry Smith

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (9)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**1**	**Todd Blythe**	**Jr.**
WR	**8**	**Austin Flynn**	**Sr.**
WR	5	R.J. Sumrall	So.
LT	**69**	**Scott Fisher**	**Sr.**
LG	**58**	**Seth Zehr**	**Sr.**
C	**63**	**Scott Stephenson**	**Sr.**
RG	77	Paul Fisher	Sr.
RT	**75**	**Aaron Brant**	**Sr.**
TE	**41**	**Ben Barkema**	**Jr.**
QB	**7**	**Bret Meyer**	**Jr.**
TB	**27**	**Stevie Hicks**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	3	Ryan Baum	Sr.
WR	82	Marquis Hamilton	Fr.
WR	81	Jon Davis	Sr.
LT		Lee Tibbs	Jr.
LG	70	Tom Schmeling	So.
C	78	Bastian Schober	Jr.
RG	73	Reggie Stephens	Fr.
RT		Ahtyba Rubin	Jr.
TE	16	Walter Nickel	Sr.
QB	10	Kyle Van Winkle	Sr.
TB	22	Jason Harris	So.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (4)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE		Collins Eboh	Jr.
DT	**52**	**Brent Curvey**	**Sr.**
DT	94	Stephon Dale	Fr.
DE	**40**	**Shawn Moorehead**	**Sr.**
SLB	**10**	**Adam Carper**	**So.**
MLB	17	Tyrone McKenzie	So.
WLB	15	Alvin Bowen	Jr.
CB	**4**	**DeAndre Jackson**	**Sr.**
CB	18	Chris Singleton	So.
SS	2	James Smith	Fr.
FS	16	Jon Banks	Jr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	47	Kurtis Taylor	Jr.
DT	93	Bryce Braaksma	Jr.
DT	95	Matt Berg	Fr.
DE	92	John Machado	Sr.
SLB		Kris Means	Fr.
MLB	57	Jesse Smith	Fr.
WLB	32	Josh Raven	Fr.
CB	6	Chris Brown	So.
CB	23	Steve Johnson	Fr.
SS	21	Caleb Berg	Jr.
FS	20	Brandon Hunley	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	37	Bret Culbertson	Jr.
P	49	Michael Brandtner	Fr.
KR	4	DeAndre Jackson	Sr.
PR	3	Ryan Baum	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 IOWA STATE ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
18	Mechaelsen, Nate	QB	6'2"	205	So.	Blairsburg, IA
7	Meyer, Bret	QB	6'3"	208	Jr.	Atlantic, IA
12	Unkrich, Tyson	QB	6'4"	170	Fr.	Mount Pleasant, IA
10	Van Winkle, Kyle	QB	6'6"	217	Sr.	Story City, IA

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
45	Ebner, Steven	FB	5'10"	229	Jr.	Sioux City, IA
22	Harris, Jason	RB	5'11"	201	So.	Clearwater, FL
27	Hicks, Stevie	RB	6'1"	212	Sr.	Omaha, NE
31	Kock, Ryan	FB	6'1"	239	Sr.	Lohrville, IA
6	Scales, Jason	RB	5'9"	209	So.	W. Des Moines, IA
39	Thompson, Ricky	RB	5'9"	202	So.	Ames, IA

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
41	Barkema, Ben	TE	6'3"	245	Jr.	Muscatine, IA
3	Baum, Ryan	WR	5'10"	186	Sr.	Gilbert, IA
1	Blythe, Todd	WR	6'5"	210	Jr.	Indianola, IA
20	Campbell, Nick	WR	6'2"	200	Sr.	Marion, IA
46	Caplin, Jeremy	WR	5'11"	180	Fr.	Highland Park, IL
83	Catlett, Derrick	TE	6'4"	235	Fr.	Fort Collins, CO
81	Davis, Jon	WR	6'4"	203	Sr.	Papillion, NE
8	Flynn, Austin	WR	6'1"	200	Sr.	Deer Park, TX
82	Hamilton, Marquis	WR	6'3"	217	Fr.	Oklahoma City, OK
14	Jones, Houston	WR	6'1"	194	Fr.	Oklahoma City, OK
16	Lillie, Justin	WR	6'4"	211	Fr.	Earlham, IA
9	Messiah, Euseph	WR	5'10"	171	So.	Bettendorf, IA
32	Moses, Milan	WR	6'1"	193	Jr.	Waterloo, IA
16	Nickel, Walter	TE	6'3"	235	Sr.	Tacoma, WA
15	Schmigdall, Derek	WR	6'1"	211	Fr.	Lincoln, NE
89	Schultz, Eric	TE	6'4"	230	Fr.	Beaver Dam, WI
34	Scribbins, Matt	WR	6'4"	200	Fr.	Clear Lake, IA
5	Sumrall, R.J.	WR	6'1"	195	So.	Winter Park, FL
80	Tinlin, Brandon	TE	6'4"	250	Jr.	San Diego, CA
17	Zitek, Joel	WR	6'2"	195	Fr.	Ulysses, NE

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
75	Brant, Aaron	T	6'7"	320	Sr.	Kieler, WI
66	Cook, Brandon	OL	6'6"	320	Jr.	Garner, IA
77	Fisher, Paul	G	6'7"	325	Sr.	St. George, UT
69	Fisher, Scott	T	6'7"	335	Sr.	St. George, UT
71	Goos, Jordan	OL	6'6"	300	So.	Treynor, IA
60	Johnson, Brandon	OL	6'4"	295	So.	Rushville, NE
52	Knapp, Mike	OL	6'4"	270	Fr.	W. Des Moines, IA
70	Schmeling, Tom	G	6'3"	290	So.	Atlantic, IA
78	Schober, Bastian	C	6'2"	305	Jr.	Granbury, TX
73	Stephens, Reggie	G	6'4"	315	Fr.	Rowlett, TX
63	Stephenson, Scott	C	6'4"	305	Sr.	St. Paul, MN
59	Streit, Landon	OL	6'5"	305	Fr.	Manson, IA
68	Tjaden, John	OL	6'7"	305	Jr.	Mason City, IA
76	Vanstrom, Joe	OL	6'6"	310	So.	Ham Lake, MN
53	Vencil, Evan	OL	6'3"	255	Fr.	Ankeny, IA
55	Walker, Anthony	OL	6'2"	280	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
58	Zehr, Seth	G	6'6"	300	Sr.	Fort Dodge, IA

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
95	Berg, Matt	DL	6'4"	260	Fr.	Aurelia, IA
93	Braaksma, Bryce	DE	6'4"	260	Jr.	Sheldon, IA
52	Curvey, Brent	DT	6'0"	295	Sr.	Houston, TX
94	Dale, Stephon	DT	6'3"	255	Fr.	Fort Meyers, FL
83	Ferguson, Travis	DE	6'5"	245	So.	Waterloo, IA
25	Frere, Nick	DL	6'2"	240	So.	Muscatine, IA
99	Howe, Nick	DL	6'3"	255	Jr.	State Center, IA
92	Machado, John	DL	6'3"	245	Sr.	Miami, FL
40	Moorehead, Shawn	DE	6'4"	250	Sr.	Mason City, IA
90	Patton, Thomas	DE	6'3"	275	Sr.	Oakland, CA
98	Sandhagen, Ryne	DL	6'4"	260	Jr.	Fayette, IA
47	Taylor, Kurtis	DL	6'3"	250	Jr.	Fort Dodge, IA

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
15	Bowen, Alvin	LB	6'4"	220	Jr.	East Orange, NJ
91	Brouillette, Zac	LB	6'3"	230	So.	Sioux City, IA
10	Carper, Adam	LB	6'3"	225	So.	Clarinda, IA
48	Cruise, Travis	LB	6'1"	205	Fr.	Ames, IA
59	Ekwolundu, Brian	LB	5'10"	200	Fr.	Corpus Christi, TX
51	Fick, Evan	LB	6'0"	180	Fr.	Mitchellville, IA
58	McConeghey, Alex	LB	6'3"	220	So.	W. Des Moines, IA
17	McKenzie, Tyrone	LB	6'2"	230	So.	Tampa, FL
35	Mehring, Chris	LB	5'11"	220	So.	Oak Lawn, IL
27	Perry, Brian	LB	6'3"	225	So.	Eldora, IA
32	Raven, Josh	LB	5'11"	205	Fr.	Cape Coral, FL
53	Scott, Walker	LB	5'9"	207	Sr.	Salix, IA
57	Smith, Jesse	LB	6'0"	230	Fr.	Des Moines, IA
44	Zimmerman, Troy	LB	6'1"	215	Fr.	Bettendorf, IA

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
16	Banks, Jon	FS	6'3"	217	Jr.	East Moline, IL
21	Berg, Caleb	SS	6'1"	203	Jr.	York, NE
6	Brown, Chris	CB	5'11"	180	So.	Gainesville, TX
19	Conklin, Joe	DB	5'10"	176	Fr.	Davenport, IA
34	Harklau, Nick	DB	6'0"	189	Fr.	Humboldt, IA
8	Harris, Justin	DB	5'11"	187	Jr.	Davenport, IA
20	Hunley, Brandon	FS	5'11"	195	So.	Grandview, MO
4	Jackson, DeAndre	CB	6'0"	192	Sr.	Garland, TX
23	Johnson, Steve	CB	6'2"	197	Fr.	Denver, CO
12	Rahe, David	DB	6'1"	203	Sr.	Dyersville, IA
45	Ramano, Aaron	DB	5'11"	217	Fr.	Council Bluffs, IA
37	Rock, Reggie	DB	5'9"	180	Fr.	Minneapolis, MN
18	Singleton, Chris	CB	5'10"	191	So.	Fort Meyers, FL
2	Smith, James	SS	5'8"	191	Fr.	Council Bluffs, IA
24	Williams, Durrell	DB	5'11"	172	Fr.	Gibsonton, FL

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
14	Blum, Joe	K	6'2"	195	So.	Denison, IA
49	Brandtner, Mike	P	6'1"	198	Fr.	Bettendorf, IA
37	Culbertson, Bret	K	6'6"	179	Jr.	Des Moines, IA
19	Griebahn, Josh	K	5'8"	193	Jr.	West Branch, IA
29	Jansen, Brian	K	6'3"	200	Jr.	Overland Park, KS
48	King, Steven	K	5'10"	208	Fr.	Johnston, IA
25	Krava, Scott	K	6'0"	202	Jr.	Grimes, IA
11	Mahoski, Chris	K	5'11"	172	Fr.	Bettendorf, IA
38	Pontier, Tyler	P/K	5'9"	205	So.	Indianola, IA

Head Coach: Dan McCarney • Record at School: 52–77 (11 years) • Career Record: 52–77 (11 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Barney Cotton • Defensive Coordinator: John Skladany • Ames, Iowa • Jack Trice Stadium (45,814)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

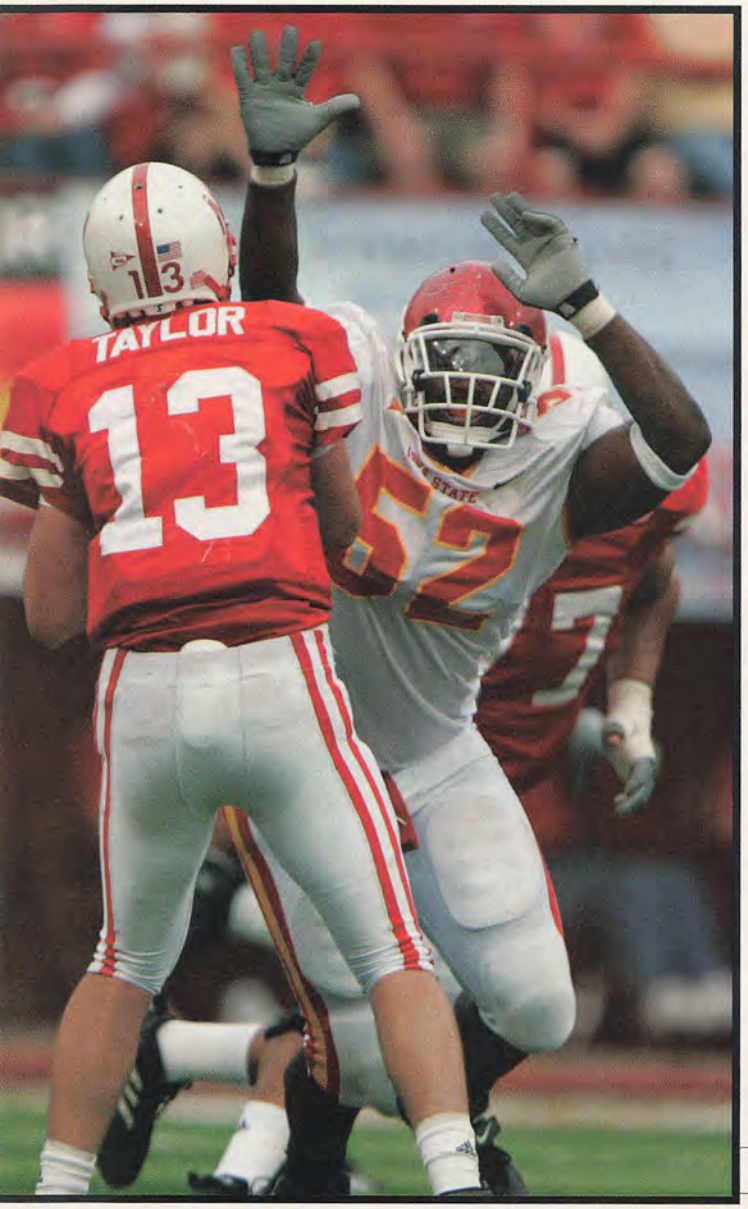
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Bret Meyer	**368**	**227**	**2,876**	**19**	**10**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Stevie Hicks	**149**	**545**	**3.7**	**4**
Greg Coleman	116	419	3.6	2
Ryan Kock	**54**	**129**	**2.4**	**13**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Austin Flynn	**56**	**624**	**11.1**	**3**
Todd Blythe	**51**	**1,000**	**19.6**	**9**
Jon Davis	**41**	**319**	**7.8**	**2**

Kicking: **Bret Culbertson, 12-16 FGs, 34-34 XPs, 70 points**
Tackles: Matt Robertson, 103; Tim Dobbins, 103
Sacks: Jason Berryman, 7.5
Interceptions: LaMarcus Hicks, 5; **DeAndre Jackson, 5**

Returning Players in Bold



Larry Smith

Brent Curvey

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

History in the making Only 16 teams in the 114-year history of Iowa State football have won seven or more games. Dan McCarney has coached five of those teams in the last six years. The only two bowl wins at ISU? Yeah, McCarney owns those too.

Thanks again Last year it was center Scott Stephenson who made a big splash in his first season coming from Minnesota. ISU thinks it has another jewel in former Michigan State linebacker Tyrone McKenzie. "We're two for two on Big Ten transfers," McCarney says. "He's a complete player."

Pack the Jack It took less than a month for fans to snatch up 3,000 new end zone seats, and ISU's new administration is aiming high for season ticket sales. The goal is 30,000, which would be the highest recorded total in school history. Since he took the job last September, athletic director Jamie Pollard said he wants to transform Jack Trice Stadium into a bigger, better venue to experience college football. ISU will be treated to new locker room facilities this fall as the first of the upgrades.

Snap to it One of the Cyclones' biggest worries this fall is their kicking game. A brand new punter will be booming kicks, and junior college transfer Matt Purvis was brought in to replace standout long snapper Landon Schrage. It's the first time McCarney has recruited a scholarship snapper in his 12 years. An ISU assistant found Purvis at a kicking camp in Las Vegas and signed him.

Unbalanced Scales Tailback Jason Scales rushed for more than 6,050 yards and 78 touchdowns as one of the top backs of all-time in Iowa high school history. In two injury-plagued seasons at ISU he's run for just 92 yards and one score. Health again was an issue in the spring, and his window to be a featured runner at ISU appears to be closing in a hurry.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 7–5 (4–4 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	Illinois State	W	32–21	44,058
Sept. 10	Iowa	W	23– 3	54,290
Sept. 23	at Army	W	28–21	25,007
Oct. 1	at Nebraska	L (2ot)	20–27	77,433
Oct. 8	Baylor	L	13–23	45,992
Oct. 15	at Missouri	L (ot)	24–27	55,016
Oct. 22	Oklahoma State	W	37–10	43,964
Oct. 29	at Texas A&M	W	42–14	86,172
Nov. 5	Kansas State	W	45–17	42,686
Nov. 12	Colorado	W	30–16	49,242
Nov. 26	at Kansas	L (ot)	21–24	42,826
Dec. 31	#TCU	L	24–27	37,286
	#Houston Bowl			

2006 RECRUITING

Iowa State really branched out with its latest recruiting class, continuing its efforts outside the usual hot spots coaches reach out to in finding talent. The Cyclones snagged their usual crop of Iowans — out-recruiting rival Iowa for the best of the bunch — but inked a handful of players where they've had trouble in the past. Among the crop are two players from the Chicago area; star linebacker Kris Means from Grand Junction, Colo.; Minneapolis running back Alexander Robinson and a whopping five players from the state of Oklahoma — including teammates Josh Johnson and Rashawn Parker. Coaches are very high on Parker, who may end up playing as a true freshman.

Needs were addressed on the offensive line with junior college transfers Lee Tibbs and Ahtyba Rubin. Depth at several spots on the line is not as strong as its needs to be, which is why Tibbs, Rubin and two more offensive linemen were among the 30 players inked. It's not often long snappers are given scholarships right away, but Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College's Matt Purvis will step in right away for the departed Landon Schrage.

Hometown kid Austen Arnaud, a quarterback, could figure into the lineup next season if he shows the skills that made him the state's top recruit. Coaches would prefer to redshirt him but may be forced into it depending on injuries or performance.

Austin Alburtis DL 6'2" 260 Dallas, TX
Named District Defensive Player of the Year as a junior.

Austen Arnaud QB 6'2" 205 Ames, IA
Iowa Gatorade Player of the Year. Father, John played at ISU.

Nate Frere DL 6'2" 270 Muscatine, IA
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Iowa by Rivals.com. Brother, Nick, is DE at ISU.

Fred Garrin LB 6'1" 215 Shepherd, TX
Named honorable mention all-state by TSA as a senior.

Matt Hulbert OL 6'6" 280 Ankeny, IA
Named first-team Class 4A All-State by the Des Moines Register.

Bailey Johnson DL 6'2" 245 Flossmoor, IL
Competed in U.S. Army All-American Combine. Had 17 sacks in 2005.

Josh Johnson RB 5'11" 205 Ponca City, OK
Rushed for Class 6A-leading 2,095 yards and 25 TDs as a senior.

Ben Lamaak TE 6'5" 225 Cedar Rapids, IA
Named first-team all-state as a senior. Participated in Iowa Shrine Bowl.

Matt Leaders LB 5'11" 195 Omaha, NE
Father, Mike, and older brothers, Andy and Nick, played football at ISU.

Devin McDowell DB 5'9" 160 Garland, TX
Recorded five INTs as a junior. Brother, DeAndre Jackson, is DB at ISU.

Prince McKinney DB 5'9" 180 Broken Arrow, OK
Recorded 16 rushing TDs, three INTs and five blocked kicks as a senior.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Defensive Linemen	7	Texas	8
Defensive Backs	7	Iowa	7
Offensive Linemen	4	Oklahoma	5
Running Backs	4	Florida	3
Linebackers	3	Illinois	2
Wide Receivers	2	Nebraska	2
Long Snappers	1	Arizona	1
Quarterbacks	1	Colorado	1
Tight Ends	1	Minnesota	1

Kris Means LB 6'1" 235 Grand Junction, CO
Named Defensive Player of the Year by the Rocky Mountain News.

Derron Montgomery WR 6'1" 175 Garland, TX
Father, Wilbert, was a former running back with the Eagles.

Mitchell Moore RB 6'0" 205 Gurnee, IL
Rushed for 1,725 yards and 26 TDs in '04; 1,353 yards and 25 TDs in '05.

Patrick Neal DL 6'0" 225 West Des Moines, IA
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Iowa by Rivals.com.

Randy Palmer DB 5'11" 170 Tulsa, OK
Quarterback of Class 5A state champions; threw for 27 TDs as a senior.

SPOTLIGHT ON...COLLINS EBOH

Defensive Lineman • 6'4" • 250 • Des Moines, IA

Expectations couldn't be much higher for transfer defensive end Collins Eboh. The 6'4", 250-pound junior — in his second go-around as a Cyclone — is stepping in at a position and time where Iowa State is in desperate need of a difference-maker. With troubled star Jason Berryman gone for good, Eboh is being counted on for immediate help up front on the defensive line. "If he's not making a run at No. 1 then we made a major mistake in bring him back," ISU coach Dan McCarney says.

Eboh appeared in seven games as a true freshman but could not make the grade academically. He surfaced at North Iowa Area Community College — a short drive from Ames up I-35 — and finished last season with 12 tackles for a loss.

An impact on the field won't be all that Eboh has to prove. "He's got to work a heck of a lot harder as a student than he did the first time," McCarney says. "He didn't understand the commitment you have to make."

Rashawn Parker DL 6'0" 235 Ponca City, OK
First-team Class 6A All-State by Daily Oklahoman. Had 18 sacks in '05.

Matt Purvis LS 6'2" 225 Tempe, AZ
Long snapper on special teams for Scottsdale (Ariz.) CC.

John Richardson DL 6'2" 245 Humble, TX
Named first-team All-District and Academic All-District as a senior.

Justin Robertson DB 6'4" 190 Port Arthur, TX
Named to Port Arthur News Super Team. Recorded five INTs as a senior.

Alexander Robinson RB 5'10" 175 Minneapolis, MN
Rushed for 2,340 yards and 31 TDs as a senior. Finalist for Mr. Football.

Ahtyba Rubin OL 6'3" 285 Pensacola, FL
Moved from DL to OL as a sophomore at Trinity Valley (TX) CC.

Derrick Russell WR 6'3" 195 Lincoln, NE
Named All-Metro in 2005. Father, Gregory, played football at Wisconsin.

Zac Sandvig DB 5'11" 180 West Des Moines, IA
Won two Class 4A state championships. Finished career with 38–1 record.

Harry Scott RB 6'2" 210 Sarasota, FL
Named All-District Class 6A by the Florida Athletic Coaches Association.

Lee Tibbs OL 6'4" 325 Oklahoma City, OK
Named All-Southwest Conference at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in '05.

Jose Vargas OL 6'3" 320 Sulphur Springs, TX
Named first-team all-state and first-team All-East Texas as a senior.

Kellen White DB 5'10" 185 Sarasota, FL
Recorded 90 tackles and three INTs as a senior. Also ran track.

Drenard Williams DB 5'10" 170 Beaumont, TX
Ranked No. 8 in state in 200-meter dash, with a time of 21.4 seconds.

National Forecast **46** | Big 12 North Prediction **2nd**

The jokes have stopped. If you're going to praise Mark Mangino for anything, credit him with forcing an end to all those one-liners about Kansas being a one-sport school. Mangino heard them all during his first three years in Lawrence.

Kansas loses an early season game: "When does basketball start?"

"People can't say that anymore," says Kansas AD Lew Perkins. "We knew all along that basketball and football could be successful here. Now we're starting to prove it."

Indeed, Kansas set home attendance records during a 2005 season that saw the Jayhawks end their 36-game losing streak against Nebraska. Their berth in the Fort Worth Bowl marked their second postseason appearance in the last three years. Campus spirit shops sold KU football garb as quickly as they did hoops apparel. Make no mistake: They still love their basketball in Lawrence — but football is a big deal now, too.

It's not as if Kansas still doesn't have a long way to go. The Jayhawks' 7–5 finish in 2005 marked their only winning record in the last 10 seasons.

Mangino believes this year's squad can build on that success, but only if it gets banner efforts from a freshman quarterback who's never taken a college snap and a defense that features eight new starters.

"We're not holding it together with spit and putty anymore," says Mangino, now in his fifth year. "We've got good, solid football players who are stepping up for the kids that graduated. We're light years ahead of where we were in 2002."

Quarterbacks For the first time in recent memory, Kansas will enter August two-a-days without a quarterback controversy. Mangino has anointed redshirt freshman Kerry Meier as the starter, and anyone who watched Kansas' spring game can understand why. At 6'3" and 210 pounds, Meier has the body and athleticism of an NFL signal-caller. By the end of spring drills, receivers were doting on the zip and accuracy of Meier's passes, and coaches bragged about his speed and ability to pick up yards on the ground.

"As of right now, physically, I think I'm all right to run (our offense)," Meier says. "My mentality as a quarterback has to come along. But I'm ready to work at it and get better."

Don't be surprised if true freshman Todd Reesing unseats senior Adam Barmann for the backup job. Barmann, who has started 13 games during his three-year career, saw some work at tight end during the spring.

Running Backs It's been 10 years since a Kansas tailback eclipsed the 1,000-yard rushing barrier. That streak may end in 2006. "The way the o-line and I have been talking ... 1,000 yards would be a disappointment," senior Jon Cornish says.

Cornish's goal may seem lofty, but it's also realistic. He gained 780 yards last season yards while splitting time with Clark Green. Even more impressive was that he averaged 5.8 yards per carry. The 205-pound British Columbia native has the perfect blend of size and speed. If he's not streaking past defenders, Cornish is plowing through them.

Cornish vows that his blocking, a weakness last season, has improved. He's also hoping to catch a few more passes than the 15 he hauled in a year ago.

Redshirt freshman Angus Quigley has emerged as Cornish's backup. Look for more touches for fullback Brandon McAnderson.

NUMBERS GAME

83.2 Kansas allowed just 83.2 rushing yards per game last season. The Jayhawks, who finished as the Big 12 leader in that category, will feature eight new starters on defense this fall.

Receivers This is easily Kansas' weakest position offensively. Junior Marcus Henry and senior Dominic Roux have been virtually non-existent during their KU careers. Marcus Herford is one of the most athletic players on the roster, yet he managed only seven catches in 2005. Still, it's not as if there's no hope. Speedy senior Brian Murph showed signs of brilliance a year ago and is arguably the most sure-handed of Kansas' pass catchers — unless you want to include tight end Derek Fine, the star of KU's spring game who's expected to play an integral role.

Sophomore Dexton Fields and freshman Raimond Pendleton are also in the mix. Highly touted recruit Tertavian Ingram could garner immediate playing time.

Offensive Linemen Four starters return from last year's unit, but by no means did this group dominate the Big 12 a year ago. The Jayhawks averaged only 329 yards per game last season and ranked among the league's bottom half in nearly every major offensive category.

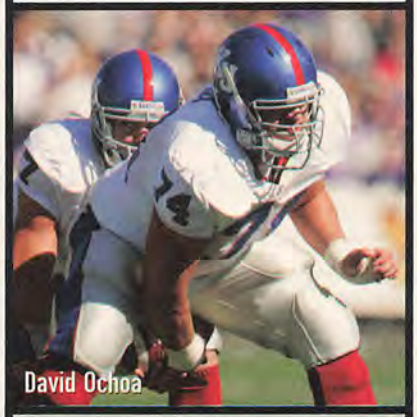
Mangino is hoping his trench warriors will benefit from the rigors they endured in '05. Expect David Ochoa and Ryan Cantrell to rotate between center and guard. The other guard spot belongs to Bob Whitaker, whose playing time will be limited because of knee problems. "It will be tough for him to make it through a whole game," Mangino says.

The biggest strides, Mangino says, have been made by sophomore Anthony Collins, who takes over for Matt Thompson at tackle.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE JAYHAWKS

After four years, Mark Mangino has finally created a sense of excitement about football in Lawrence. Now comes the tough part: sustaining it. Kansas' hopes of earning a second straight bowl berth hinge on two factors: The play of freshman quarterback Kerry Meier, and the ability of the defense to rebound from the loss of eight starters, including Charlton Keith, Charles Gordon and Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Nick Reid. Kansas' offense, one of the league's worst for much of last season, should improve if Meier is as good as advertised and if tailback Jon Cornish continues to make strides. The Jayhawks return four starters on the offensive line, and their receiving corps has plenty of faces eager to emerge. Cornerback Aqib Talib will contend for postseason honors and linebackers Mike Rivera, Joe Mortensen and Eric Washington are ready to take over for KU's three departed seniors. Still, Kansas will take a step back defensively. How big that step will be will go a long way toward determining KU's spot in the race for the Big 12 North title. One thing to remember: Instead of playing South powers Texas, Oklahoma and Texas Tech, the Jayhawks get Baylor, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M. That, if nothing else, should keep Mangino's squad in the hunt until the end.


David Ochoa

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Northwestern State	W
S.	9	UL Monroe	W
S.	**16**	**at Toledo**	*
S.	23	South Florida	W
S.	30	at Nebraska	L
O.	**7**	**Texas A&M**	*
O.	14	Oklahoma State	W
O.	21	at Baylor	W
O.	**28**	**Colorado**	*
N.	**4**	**at Iowa State**	*
N.	18	Kansas State	W
N.	**25**	**at Missouri**	*

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Ochoa: Larry Smith; Cornish: Icon SMI

Kansas RB
Jon Cornish

Defensive Linemen Kansas led the Big 12 in rush defense (83.3 ypg) last season, but three starters off the line are gone. None will be tougher to replace than NFL Draft pick Charlton Keith, arguably the top player to wear a Jayhawks uniform in the last decade.

Still, Mangino is confident senior ends Rodney Allen and Paul Como will enjoy breakthrough seasons after playing extensively in 2005. Allen was one of the country's top junior college prospects two years ago. So, too, was tackle Wayne Wilder, who is back to 100 percent after battling injuries during most of his junior season. James McClinton returns at the other tackle spot, where Caleb Blakesley and Todd Haselhorst will also compete for playing time. Blakesley was regarded as one of the top five recruits in Kansas as a senior at Ottawa (Kan.) High School. Haselhorst missed the 2005 season with an injury.

Linebackers No position is as green as Kansas' linebacking corps, which lost veteran starters Nick Reid, Kevin Kane and Banks Floodman to graduation. Reid, the Jayhawks' second all-time leading tackler, was last season's Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year. Inexperienced as the unit may be, though, Mangino believes its overall athleticism and speed are superior to that of the group that came before them. "As nice as that it, there's still a learning curve involved," Mangino says.

Local product Mike Rivera is a lock to start in the middle. At 6'3", 250 pounds, Rivera is extremely quick for his size. The same can be said for the 245-pound Joe Mortensen, the vocal leader of the group. Eric Washington, who missed spring drills with an injury, is expected to start at the other outside position.

Look for Brandon Duncan to see extensive action as a backup along with James Holt, who will be used in blitzing situations much like departed senior Brandon Perkins was last year.

Defensive Backs Cornerback Aqib Talib is Kansas' top NFL prospect — and he's only a sophomore. At 6'2", Talib's height will catch the attention of professional scouts, and his closing speed will keep it. Talib carries himself with the same kind of swagger that players like Reid, Keith and Kane brought a year ago.

Unfortunately, the rest of Kansas' secondary is suspect. The biggest problem isn't a lack of talent, but rather a lack of depth.

Mangino signed junior college transfers Michael McCoy and Blake Bueltel to compete for the other cornerback spot, but don't be surprised if true freshman Anthony Webb plays his way into the mix during August-two-a-days.

Jerome Kemp returns at strong safety. Known as one of the team's hardest hitters, Kemp is a solid player but not an all-star. Starting alongside Kemp at free safety will be Darrell Stuckey, a talented redshirt freshman who's sure to endure his share of growing pains.

Specialists The Jayhawks couldn't be feeling any better about their kicking game. Scott Webb may not be known for his distance, but the junior was 11-of-13 from inside 40 yards last season, when he made 27-of-29 extra points. Even better: Kyle Tucker was one of 10 finalists for the Ray Guy Award, which is given annually to the nation's top punter.

Jerome Kemp

RISING STAR

Brian Murph arrived at Kansas last season ready to make his mark on the Jayhawks' receiving corps. But inconsistent quarterback play limited the speedster to 33 catches. Expect Murph to play a bigger role in 2005 — especially now that Kerry Meier is under center.

KEY JAYHAWKS

Jon Cornish, RB
Powerful senior could end up being one of the Big 12's top backs.

Derek Fine, TE
Was the star of Kansas' spring game.

Aqib Talib, CB
Jayhawks will be lucky to keep the 6'2" sophomore two more years.

Rodney Allen, DE
Junior college All-American should be KU's top guy in the trenches

Jerome Kemp, SS
Vicious hitter is one of only three starters back on defense.

KEY LOSSES

Charlton Keith, DE
Kansas' best defensive player since Dana Stubblefield.

Nick Reid, LB
Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year is KU's second all-time leading tackler.

Charles Gordon, ATH
Played cornerback, caught passes, returned kicks, then left a year early.

Mark Simmons, WR
Set school record for receptions.

Kevin Kane, LB
Gritty player whose attitude, work ethic and fire set the tone for KU's defense.

Larry Smith

SCOUTING THE JAYHAWKS

Opposing coaches size up Kansas: "They were one of the better teams in the league at the end of last season, but they're going to have a hard time duplicating that this season. They lost too many pieces on defense, but Mark Mangino always does a good job of plugging people into their scheme. They lost their two big defensive ends (Jermial Ashley and Charlton Keith) and the great linebacker (Nick Reid). Losing the cornerback (Charles Gordon) to the NFL didn't help. They've got to replace all their playmakers on defense and that's not easy for any school to do....They should be better on offense, especially if the young quarterback (Kerry Meier) is as good as everybody thought he was going to be. They rotated quarterbacks last season and didn't seem to have much rhythm on offense. Jon Cornish is an underrated running back, but most of their big receivers are gone. I think it could be a tough year for them."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	80	Dominic Roux	Sr.
WR	**6**	**Brian Murph**	**Sr.**
WR	88	Dexton Fields	So.
LT	**65**	**Cesar Rodriguez**	**Jr.**
LG	**77**	**Bob Whitaker**	**Sr.**
C	**74**	**David Ochoa**	**Sr.**
RG	**50**	**Ryan Cantrell**	**So.**
RT	78	Anthony Collins	So.
TE	**85**	**Derek Fine**	**Jr.**
QB	10	Kerry Meier	Fr.
RB	29	Jon Cornish	Sr.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	86	Marcus Henry	Jr.
WR	11	Jonathan Lamb	Sr.
WR	13	Marcus Herford	So.
LT	69	Travis Dambach	Sr.
LG	64	Jake Cox	Sr.
C	76	Matt Mann	Sr.
RG	67	Rameses Arceo	Jr.
RT	60	Jose Rodriguez	Fr.
TE	96	Marc Dierking	Jr.
QB	7	Adam Barmann	Sr.
RB	22	Angus Quigley	Fr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (3)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	92	Rodney Allen	Sr.
DT	91	Wayne Wilder	Sr.
DT	**93**	**James McClinton**	**Jr.**
DE	98	Paul Como	Sr.
OLB	37	Joe Mortensen	So.
MLB	40	Mike Rivera	So.
OLB	33	Eric Washington	Sr.
CB	**3**	**Aqib Talib**	**So.**
CB	23	Blake Bueltel	Jr.
SS	**24**	**Jerome Kemp**	**Sr.**
FS	25	Darrell Stuckey	Fr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	97	John McCoy	Sr.
DT	94	Caleb Blakesley	Fr.
DT	72	Todd Haselhorst	So.
DE	87	John Larson	So.
OLB	58	Jake Schermer	Fr.
MLB	16	Brandon Duncan	Fr.
OLB	12	James Holt	So.
CB	31	Michael McCoy	Jr.
CB	38	Raymond Brown	So.
SS	36	Tang Bacheyie	So.
FS	27	Sadiq Muhammad	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	39	Scott Webb	Jr.
P	15	Kyle Tucker	Jr.
KR	2	Kenneth Thompson	Sr.
PR	2	Kenneth Thompson	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 KANSAS ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
17	Farrall, Chance	QB	6'4"	225	Jr.	Shawnee Mission, KS
10	Meier, Kerry	QB	6'3"	210	Fr.	Pittsburg, KS
5	Reesing, Todd	QB	5'11"	190	Fr.	Austin, TX
18	Ross, Zach	QB	6'1"	190	So.	Niwot, CO

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
87	Archer, Sam	FB	6'1"	220	Fr.	McPherson, KS
29	Cornish, Jon	RB	6'0"	205	Sr.	New Westminster, BC
4	Green II, Gary	RB	5'9"	175	So.	San Antonio, TX
43	Kurtenbach, Nick	RB	5'10"	200	Jr.	Lindsay, NE
35	McAnderson, Brandon	RB	6'0"	235	Jr.	Lawrence, KS
22	Quigley, Angus	RB	6'2"	210	Fr.	Cleburne, TX
34	Ringwood, Bruce	RB	6'1"	215	Jr.	Blue Springs, MO

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
7	Barmann, Adam	TE/QB	6'4"	210	Sr.	Weston, MO
81	Brorsen, Russell	TE	6'4"	238	So.	Stillwater, OK
47	Brown, Micah	WR	6'0"	178	Fr.	Kearney, NE
96	Dierking, Marc	TE	6'2"	205	Jr.	Overland Park, KS
88	Fields, Dexton	WR	6'0"	180	So.	Dallas, TX
85	Fine, Derek	TE	6'3"	245	Jr.	Sallisaw, OK
82	Foster, Jeff	WR	6'2"	195	Jr.	Cedar Rapids, IA
86	Henry, Marcus	WR	6'4"	200	Jr.	Lawton, OK
13	Herford, Marcus	WR	6'3"	210	So.	DeSoto, TX
16	Johnson, Hassan	WR	6'0"	175	Jr.	Kansas City, KS
11	Lamb, Jonathan	WR	6'2"	190	Sr.	Lenexa, KS
95	Matte, Matthew	TE	6'2"	230	Fr.	Albuquerque, NM
6	Murph, Jr., Brian	WR	6'1"	190	Sr.	Howardville, MO
9	Pendleton, Raimond	WR	5'10"	180	Fr.	Garland, TX
80	Roux, Dominic	WR	5'11"	175	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
49	Spears, Derek	TE	6'3"	215	So.	Osborne, KS
17	Swab, Jack	WR	6'1"	185	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
46	Thornton, Justin	WR	6'1"	185	Fr.	St. Joseph, MO

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
75	Anderson, Marcus	OL	6'4"	285	Jr.	Oakland, CA
67	Arceo, Rameses	G	6'4"	295	Jr.	Whittier, CA
50	Cantrell, Ryan	G/C	6'3"	285	So.	Sugar Land, TX
78	Collins, Anthony	T	6'6"	285	So.	Beaumont, TX
64	Cox, Jake	G	6'5"	295	Sr.	Marengo, IA
69	Dambach, Travis	T	6'5"	295	Sr.	Jackson, MO
70	Darton, Matt	OL	6'6"	305	So.	San Diego, CA
76	Mann, Matt	C	6'4"	290	Sr.	Norman, OK
66	Mayes, Adrian	OL	6'3"	300	So.	Manhattan, KS
74	Ochoa, David	C/G	6'4"	285	Sr.	Houston, TX
65	Rodriguez, Cesar	T	6'7"	286	Jr.	La Puente, CA
60	Rodriguez, Jose	T	6'6"	255	Fr.	La Puente, CA
77	Whitaker, Bob	G	6'5"	317	Sr.	Mt. Lebanon, PA
62	Whitchurch, Chris	OL	6'3"	285	Fr.	Pembroke Pines, FL

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
92	Allen, Rodney	DE	6'3"	280	Sr.	Miami, FL
94	Blakesley, Caleb	DL	6'5"	277	Fr.	Ottawa, KS
79	Brant, Chris	DL	6'3"	285	Sr.	Edmond, OK
56	Butler, Eric	DL	6'2"	300	Sr.	Leawood, KS
98	Como, Paul	DE	6'2"	248	Sr.	Dana Point, CA
72	Haselhorst, Todd	DL	6'4"	300	So.	Olathe, KS
87	Larson, John	DE	6'3"	240	So.	Shawnee Mission, KS
93	McClinton, James	DL	6'1"	283	Jr.	Garland, TX
97	McCoy, John	DL	6'3"	250	Sr.	Richwood, OH
71	Templin, Luke	DL	6'2"	240	Fr.	Andover, KS
84	Wheeler, Jeff	DE	6'7"	240	Fr.	Houston, TX
91	Wilder, Wayne	DL	6'3"	295	Sr.	Forsyth, GA

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
16	Duncan, Brandon	LB	6'1"	206	Fr.	Garland, TX
61	Handshy, Ian	LB	6'1"	230	Fr.	Lawrence, KS
12	Holt, James	LB	6'3"	200	So.	Altus, OK
37	Mortensen, Joe	LB	6'2"	245	So.	Oakland, CA
40	Rivera, Mike	LB	6'3"	250	So.	Shawnee Mission, KS
58	Schermer, Jake	LB	6'2"	200	Fr.	Nixa, MO
33	Washington, Eric	LB	6'2"	220	Sr.	Detroit, MI
41	Wright, Arist	LB	6'0"	205	Fr.	Houston, TX
53	Zeleznak, Matt	LB	6'0"	215	So.	Topeka, KS

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
14	Arndt, Luke	CB	5'10"	180	So.	Emporia, KS
36	Bacheyie, Tang	SS	6'1"	195	So.	Windsor, ON
38	Brown, Raymond	S	6'3"	200	So.	St. Louis, MO
23	Bueltel, Blake	CB	6'0"	175	Jr.	Topeka, KS
11	Byrd, Leonard	DB	6'0"	176	Fr.	Flossmoor, IL
15	House, Jermaine	CB	5'9"	170	So.	St. Louis, MO
24	Kemp, Jerome	S	5'10"	200	Sr.	Wichita, KS
20	Kosko, John	S	5'9"	190	So.	Emporia, KS
31	McCoy, Micheal	DB	5'11"	185	Jr.	Palmdale, CA
27	Muhammed, Sadiq	FS	6'0"	190	Jr.	Kansas City, MO
44	Oguntodu, Olaitan	S	6'0"	200	Fr.	Mesquite, TX
19	Seymour, Brian	S	6'1"	190	Jr.	Lawrence, KS
25	Stuckey, Darrell	DB	6'1"	183	Fr.	Kansas City, KS
3	Talib, Aqib	CB	6'2"	180	So.	Richardson, TX
2	Thompson, Kenneth	CB	5'11"	180	Sr.	Grand Prairie, TX

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
46	Anderson, Kayl	LS	6'2"	225	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
9	Broadie, Dane	K	6'0"	180	Sr.	Kansas City, MO
22	Davis, Kyle	P	5'10"	178	Fr.	Overland Park, KS
49	Hanson, Alex	K	6'0"	180	Fr.	Ankeny, IA
54	Hood, Zack	LS	6'2"	255	Sr.	Creston, IA
15	Tucker, Kyle	P	6'2"	205	Jr.	Katy, TX
39	Webb, Scott	K	5'11"	180	Jr.	Tulsa, OK

Head Coach: Mark Mangino • Record at School: 19–29 (4 years) • Career Record: 19–29 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Nick Quartaro • Defensive Coordinator: Bill Young • Lawrence, Kan. • Memorial Stadium (50,071)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Jason Swanson	190	105	1,223	14	8
Brian Luke	171	87	967	6	8

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jon Cornish	**134**	**780**	**5.8**	**9**
Clark Green	153	664	4.3	2
Brandon McAnderson	22	102	4.6	1

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Mark Simmons	44	631	14.3	4
Charles Gordon	34	313	9.2	2
Brian Murph	**33**	**368**	**11.2**	**2**

Kicking: **Scott Webb, 14-19 FGs, 27-29 XPs, 69 points**
Tackles: Nick Reid, 112; Kevin Kane, 80
Sacks: Brandon Perkins, 10
Interceptions: Theo Baines, 4

Returning Players in Bold

Aqib Talib

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Trouble looming? Kansas is awaiting word from the NCAA regarding what sanctions, if any, will be levied against its football team for the academic fraud that allegedly occurred in the summer of 2003.

Injury woes The career of starting free safety Rodney Harris came to a premature end when the senior injured his neck during spring drills. Harris, who had surgery to repair the damage, will serve as a student coach.

See ya Kansas coaches had planned to allow embattled tailback John Randle back on the team following last year's suspension. But Randle lost that opportunity in April when he was arrested for the fifth time in less than three years.

From QB to TE? Former starting quarterback Adam Barmann saw action as a tight end during spring drills. Barmann has started 13 games at quarterback during his Kansas career, and the move might allow him to see the field again, with Kerry Meier entrenched at quarterback.

New voice KU is looking for a new color commentator following the retirement of Hall of Fame broadcaster Max Falkenstien, who spent 60 years calling Jayhawks football and basketball.

Football family Dylan Meier, the brother of starting quarterback Kerry Meier, is expected to compete for the starting quarterback job at Kansas State. Their oldest brother, Shad, was also a Kansas State Wildcat before moving on to the NFL.

Breakthrough Kansas' 40–15 win over Nebraska in 2005 was the Jayhawks' first in the series since '68. That string of futility against one team was the second-longest in NCAA history.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 7–5 (3–5 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	Florida Atlantic	W	30–19	40,930
Sept. 10	Appalachian State	W	36– 8	37,070
Sept. 17	Louisiana Tech	W	34–14	41,237
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech	L	17–30	52,601
Oct. 8	at Kansas State	L	3–12	49,798
Oct. 15	Oklahoma	L	3–19	54,109
Oct. 22	at Colorado	L	13–44	48,025
Oct. 29	Missouri	W	13– 3	48,238
Nov. 5	Nebraska	W	40–15	51,750
Nov. 12	at Texas	L	14–66	83,696
Nov. 26	Iowa State	W	24–21	42,826
Dec. 23	#Houston	W	42–13	33,505
	#Fort Worth Bowl			

Larry Smith

2006 RECRUITING

After having eight prospects decommit the previous year, Kansas coach Mark Mangino did everything he could to ensure such a disaster didn't occur again in 2005.

"I think we took some extra precautions to deal with kids of character," Mangino says. "Character is an important factor in signing our players, no question."

The result was a class in which every player stuck by his initial pledge.

Kansas' biggest need was at cornerback, where the loss of Charles Gordon, Theo Baines and Ronnie Amadi left the Jayhawks with virtually no depth. Dallas' Anthony Webb — the only four-star recruit in this year's haul — appears to be the best of the three corners that KU signed, although junior college transfers Blake Bueltel and Michael McCoy performed well in spring ball.

"(Webb) is a good-hips, quick-feet, great-change-of-direction guy that you need," Mangino says. "He has a lot of fight in him, a lot of competitive spirit."

Kansas also added three running backs — Jake Sharp, Donte Bean and D'Marcus Lang — to a team that has only one proven ballcarrier in senior Jon Cornish. Wide receiver Tertavian Ingram, who initially committed to Purdue, is another high-profile signee who could make an immediate impact.

The most decorated player of the bunch is also one of the smallest. Todd Reesing, a 5'11" quarterback, graduated from Lake Travis High School in Austin a semester early and enrolled at KU in January. He ended spring drills as the Jayhawks' third-team signal caller, but don't be surprised if he surpasses Adam Barmann for the backup job at some point this fall. The most impressive stat on Reesing: he threw for 41 touchdowns — and only five interceptions — as a senior last season. As a junior he was named Texas' Class 4A Player of the Year.

Donte Bean RB 5'9" 180 Rowlett, TX
Ranked No. 42 area prospect by the Dallas Morning News.

Sal Capra LB 6'3" 245 Kansas City, MO
Named first-team all-state and all-district as a junior and senior.

Bradley Dedeaux TE 6'3" 240 Midwest City, OK
Ranked No. 15 prospect in Oklahoma and No. 40 tight end in the nation by Rivals.com. Named all-state by the Daily Oklahoman in 2005. Also competed in the shot put, winning third place in state as a junior.

Jamal Greene DE 6'4" 265 Kansas City, KS
Ranked No. 3 prospect in Kansas by Rivals.com. Recorded 63 tackles and four sacks as a senior. Named first-team All-KCK League in 2005. Cousin, Martez Wesley, played football at Kansas State.

Tertavian Ingram WR 6'0" 181 Tampa, FL
Named first-team All-Western Conference in 2005. Recorded 66 catches and 13 receiving TDs as a senior. Named Jefferson HS team MVP in '05.

D'Marcus Lang RB 6'2" 212 Scurry, TX
Rushed for 1,365 yards and 12 TDs; threw for 516 yards and six TDs as a senior. Ranked No. 40 area prospect by the Dallas Morning News.

Tyler Lawrence QB 6'3" 205 Shawnee, KS
Ranked No. 4 prospect in Kansas by Rivals.com. Recorded 27 career passing TDs and 13 career rushing TDs. Named Class 6A All-State in '05.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Linebackers	4	Texas	9
Defensive Backs	3	Kansas	3
Defensive Linemen	3	Oklahoma	3
Offensive Linemen	3	Florida	2
Running Backs	3	Missouri	2
Quarterbacks	2	California	1
Wide Receivers	2	Colorado	1
Tight Ends	1		

Dakota Lewis LB 6'1" 206 Sulphur, OK
Named first-team Class 3A All-State by the OCA and Daily Oklahoman. Named All-Area Defensive Player of the Year and Class 2A-4A District Player of the Year as a senior. Rushed for 1,000 yards and 31 TDs; recorded 174 tackles in 2005. Won state titles in football and baseball.

John Marshall OL 6'3" 280 New Pleasant, TX
Named honorable mention All-State by the Texas Sportswriters Assoc.

Olaitan Oguntodu DB 6'0" 200 Mesquite, TX
Ranked No. 32 area prospect by the Dallas Morning News.

Maxwell Onyegbule LB 6'4" 220 Arlington, TX
Recorded 141 tackles, nine sacks and seven pass deflections in 2005. Named District MVP and second-team all-state as a senior.

SPOTLIGHT ON...JAKE SHARP

Running Back • 5'10" • 190 • Salina, KS

Kansas coaches are certain Jake Sharp will become a star for the Jayhawks sooner rather than later. They just don't know in what capacity.

"I'm sure we'll find a place for him somewhere," Mark Mangino chuckles.

Sharp rushed for 6,594 yards and a state-record 108 touchdowns during his career at Central High School in Salina, Kan. But he can also return kicks and punts and play in the slot.

In other words, just because Jon Cornish has a lock on the starting tailback position doesn't mean Sharp won't see the field in 2006. Sharp is one of three tailbacks KU signed to compete with Cornish and redshirt freshman Angus Quigley for playing time.

"I'd rather not redshirt," says Sharp, the top-ranked prospect in Kansas. "But that will be a mutual decision with the coaches."

The 5'10", 190-pound Sharp runs the 100-meter dash in 10.7 seconds and entered the spring as the two-time defending state champion in the long jump.

Xavier Rambo WR 6'0" 185 Dallas, TX
Named first-team All-Region II as a senior. Also ran track.

Todd Reesing QB 5'11" 190 Austin, TX
Named Class 4A Player of the Year and Central Texas Player of the Year as a senior. Threw for 3,340 yards, 41 TDs and only five INTs; rushed for 750 yards and eight TDs in 2005. Completed state-leading 72.3 percent of passes, leading Lake Travis HS to perfect 10–0 record as a senior.

Phillip Strozier DB 6'0" 190 Kansas City, MO
Named Kansas City Metro Defensive Player of the Year as a senior. Ranked No. 9 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com.

Jeremy Terry LB 6'1" 190 Belle Glade, FL
Participated in the Palm Beach County All-Star Game and Outback Steakhouse Game as a senior. Named Coaches Defensive Player of the Year in '03 and '04. Won three District titles at Glades Central HS.

Jason Thompson DE 6'6" 245 Dallas, TX
Named District 10 Class 3A Defensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Anthony Webb DB 6'0" 175 Glenn Heights, TX
Ranked No. 22 area prospect by the Dallas Morning News.

John White DL 6'2" 285 Moore, OK
Named honorable mention all-state as a senior.

Carl Wilson OL 6'4" 275 Redlands, CA
Named first-team All-CIF and first-team All-CBL as a senior.

Ian Wolfe OL 6'5" 280 Fort Collins, CO
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com.

National Forecast **73** | Big 12 North Prediction **6th**

It's a new era at K-State, the place coach Bill Snyder put on the football map. Snyder retired in November after 17 mostly successful seasons, and now it's Ron Prince's job to restore the success Snyder established.

Prince, 36, comes from Virginia, where he was the Cavaliers' offensive coordinator and offensive line coach. This is his first stab at head coaching, and he knows exactly what he plans to do. "It's the mission of this organization to become a strong, fast, tough, disciplined team that consistently competes for championships," says Prince, who grew up in Junction City, Kan., a 20-minute drive from Manhattan, Kan.

The Wildcats are coming off back-to-back losing seasons after a streak of 11 straight bowls. Twenty players who have made starts return from a team that went 5–6, losing five of its last six games.

Expect to see signs of the West Coast offense under offensive coordinator James Franklin, former Green Bay Packers assistant wide receivers coach. Fall practice will be intriguing because there'll be quite a battle to be the No. 1 quarterback.

On defense, K-State is led by coordinator Raheem Morris, who is expected to bring the Cover 2 with him from Tampa Bay, where he was assistant defensive backs coach. His brightest star is senior linebacker Brandon Archer, who hopes to buoy a defense that didn't live up to K-State standards in 2005.

K-State players entered 2006 with a clean slate. Prince opened up every position and didn't watch a second of video from last season because he wanted to give every player a fair shot. No doubt he set the bar high.

"We want to be recognized as the best organization in college football," Prince says.

Quarterbacks This should be fun. How often does a new coach walk into a situation like this? Prince has numerous options at quarterback, both old and new. Seniors Allen Webb and Dylan Meier have had their moments and possess the most experience. Webb is the better runner. Meier, who underwent reconstructive surgery to his right (throwing) shoulder and missed all of 2005, is the better passer. He's healthy and should challenge for the starter's job.

Sophomore Allan Evridge, a lefty, got more starts than anybody last season (six) but totaled more interceptions (seven) than TD passes (six). His 1,365 passing yards set a record for a K-State freshman, and his rugged durability is a huge plus.

The X factor is Josh Freeman from Grandview, Mo., considered a top 100 player in the nation and the most heralded recruit of this year's class. Freeman got a head start by enrolling for the spring semester and participated in spring drills.

Running Backs The top four running backs return, including senior Carlos Alsup, who has received a sixth year of eligibility. Alsup made one start last season. Alsup will contend for the starting job with senior Thomas Clayton and sophomore Parrish Fisher. Clayton led the nation early but slipped to eighth in the Big 12. He had three games of more than 100 yards. Fisher, often compared to former K-State star Darren Sproles, set the single-game school record for freshmen with 169 yards against North Texas.

A player to watch is James Johnson, transfer from Blinn College, where former K-State quarterback Michael Bishop played.

The fullback job is up for grabs now that Victor Mann has departed. The contenders include senior Rimmon McNeese and freshmen Courtney Greer and Pat Roxas.

NUMBERS GAME

359.5 Kansas State allowed 359.5 yards per game in 2005, the most since former coach Bill Snyder's second season in 1990, when the Wildcats gave up 405.5.

Receivers K-State is well-stocked at wide receiver. In a West Coast offense, they'll be on call a lot. Junior Jordy Nelson is a rising star in the Big 12, and he led the Wildcats with 45 receptions, 669 yards and eight touchdowns. Nelson (6'3", 210) had quite a streak going, making a touchdown grab in each of the first seven games.

Seniors Yamon Figurs and Jermaine Moreira bring experience and big-play ability. Figurs led K-State in yards per catch in each of the last two seasons, and Moreira had 35 receptions for 485 yards in 2005.

Keep an eye on redshirt freshman Val Taylor. The speedy receiver from Dallas made some impressive catches during the spring and could be in the mix.

The tight end will be crucial to the offense. It was that way when Prince was at Virginia, which produced first-round draft choice Heath Miller of the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers. Junior Rashaad Norwood, who earned praise from Prince in the spring, still has a chance to live up to the high expectations that were heaped on him as soon as he arrived.

Offensive Linemen This unit has one goal: staying healthy. K-State lost four linemen for more than one game because of injuries last season, and that prevented them from gaining continuity and consistency. And they were young, so the growing pains were

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE WILDCATS

The new coaching staff will run a version of the West Coast offense, and the key is finding the right person to run it. The quarterback who is best suited for it is senior Dylan Meier, who missed all of 2005 after undergoing reconstructive surgery to his right (throwing) shoulder. If Meier can't win the job, there is no shortage of candidates. The quarterback, whoever he is, will have three main targets to throw to in seniors Yamon Figurs and Jermaine Moreira and junior Jordy Nelson, who led with 45 receptions for 669 yards and eight TDs. Senior running back Thomas Clayton will battle sophomore Parrish Fisher for action. They must hope a young offensive line, riddled by injuries last season, improves. And the offense needs to be more effective in the red zone. The Wildcats were 11th in the Big 12 in red zone offense in 2005. As for defense, expect to see a new wrinkle that isn't happening only on Sundays anymore. It's all about Cover 2, the trendy NFL scheme that made the Tampa Bay Buccaneers hum. The defense, or lack of it, cost K-State (eighth in the Big 12 in total defense) too much, so it has to be addressed. The special teams also need a boost. K-State was 10th in punting and ninth in kickoff returns.

Brandon Archer

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Illinois State	W
S.	9	Florida Atlantic	W
S.	16	Marshall	W
S.	23	Louisville	L
S.	**30**	**at Baylor**	*
O.	**7**	**Oklahoma State**	*
O.	14	Nebraska	L
O.	21	at Missouri	L
O.	28	Iowa State	L
N.	4	at Colorado	L
N.	11	Texas	L
N.	18	at Kansas	L

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Clayton, Archer: Larry Smith

Kansas State RB
Thomas Clayton

enormous. This season, the line will be anchored by left guard Greg Wafford, the only senior expected to contribute. Sophomore Gerard Spexarth is in line to be the starter at right tackle. He'll be joined by promising underclassmen like sophomore guards Caleb Handy and Matt Boss and junior John Hafferty.

At center, sophomore Jordan Bedore will battle sophomore Ryan Schmidt. Redshirt freshman Derek Meyer, who Prince singled out in the spring for his effort, worked his way into the starting job at left tackle.

Defensive Linemen If the Wildcats need improvement from one specific area, this is it. The pass rush, which failed to get the job done, has to be enhanced. Senior Blake Seiler, who originally went to Oklahoma State to be a wrestler, and sophomore Ian Campbell could provide relief, as well as junior college transfer Moses Manu and redshirt freshman Eric Childs.

A real concern is at tackle. Senior Quintin Echols needed to shed pounds during the spring, and sophomore Alphonso Moran had a cast on his right forearm. Junior Steve Cline might see his playing time increase.

Linebackers It starts with senior Brandon Archer. The supporting cast, though, isn't shabby. Archer, who plays the strong side, led the Wildcats in tackles the last two seasons, and his leadership is unquestioned. "I'm just trying to focus on our defense and get our guys right," says Archer. He's got three career interceptions, all of which he returned for TDs.

Maurice Mack made a decent transition from strong safety to weak side last year, and he can hit. Zach Diles, a pleasant surprise last year, should be the man in the middle. Reggie Walker, the only true freshman to play in '05, will challenge at weak side.

Defensive Backs It's all about Marcus Watts. If Archer isn't the key to the defense, Watts is that guy. The junior free safety, voted the team MVP on defense and special teams, covers lots of ground. But he was grounded with a serious hip injury in the season finale against Missouri. Watts wasn't much of a factor during the spring, perhaps by design.

"I'm really not in any way trying to push him back into action. I'm much more interested in his performance in the fall," Prince says.

Junior cornerback Bryan Baldwin improved in 2005, and big things have been expected from senior strong safety Kyle Williams since he arrived from junior college. Junior cornerback Justin McKinney was somebody Prince mentioned more than once in the spring because of his solid play.

Junior cornerback Byron Garvin, suspended for undisclosed reasons the last four games in 2005, is back. He started the first seven games.

Specialists Junior Tim Reyer, the punter who forgot to take the field at Oklahoma and watched in horror as the snapper let it fly anyway, hopes to put that behind him.

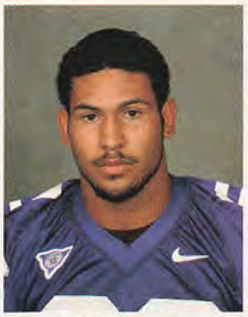
The placekicking chores probably go to senior incumbent Jeff Snodgrass, who made 10-of-16 field goals, including a 57-yarder.

The return teams must do a better job of not turning it over. Figurs and Moreira figure to be on returns. Figurs returned a kickoff for a TD, and Moreira returned a punt for a score.

Jordy Nelson

RISING STAR

Defensive end was a disappointment for Kansas State in 2005. Eric Childs could rectify the problem. Childs, a 6'3", 225-pound redshirt freshman from Arlington, Tex., got mentioned numerous times in the spring by coach Ron Prince. The Wildcats held a draft for their annual spring game, and Childs was the No. 2 overall selection. "He gives us quite a rush off the edge," Prince says.



SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

Opposing coaches size up Kansas State: "Anytime a legend like Bill Snyder retires, it's tough to swallow, but I thought it was time for a change there. For whatever reason, they just haven't worked as hard the last few years and lost their swagger. I don't think they were recruiting the caliber of athletes they were used to getting....I don't know if Ron Prince is the right guy for the job. His offenses at Virginia weren't anything to write home about and they had some really good athletes up there. They've got a few pieces they can build around, but it's going to be really hard for Prince to do much this season. ...They face a tough non-conference schedule (including games against Fresno State and Louisville) and they'll struggle in conference play. It's going to be a couple of years before we find out what the Kansas State guys saw in Prince."

KEY WILDCATS

Jordy Nelson, WR
This junior TD machine recorded one in each of the first seven games.

Brandon Archer, LB
The Wildcats' leader in tackles as a sophomore and junior.

Marcus Watts, FS
Voted the team MVP on defense but must overcome hip injury.

Yamon Figurs, WR
Needs to utilize 4.3 speed and be the playmaker that was lacking in 2005.

Dylan Meier, QB
If shoulder is OK, could do big things.

KEY LOSSES

Jeromey Clary, LT
His leadership meant so much.

Victor Mann, FB
Possessed a work ethic that served as a model for others.

Ted Sims, LB
A hero in 2003 Big 12 title game was tied for fourth in tackles.

Scott Edmonds, DE
Assorted issues, including injuries, prevented him from making an impact.

Davin Dennis, WR
Will forever be linked to Marshall loss in 2003, but still had good moments.

Larry Smith

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (9)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**27**	**Jordy Nelson**	**Jr.**
WR	10	Jermaine Moreira	Sr.
WR	**16**	**Yamon Figurs**	**Sr.**
LT	71	Derek Meyer	Fr.
LG	**67**	**Greg Wafford**	**Sr.**
C	**79**	**Jordan Bedore**	**So.**
RG	**69**	**Caleb Handy**	**So.**
RT	73	Gerard Spexarth	So.
TE	**89**	**Rashaad Norwood**	**Jr.**
QB	**12**	**Allan Evridge**	**So.**
RB	**5**	**Thomas Clayton**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	25	Toney Coleman	Jr.
WR	4	Val Taylor	Fr.
WR	6	Ro Grigsby	So.
LT	68	Brad Rooker	So.
LG	75	Matt Boss	So.
C	70	Ryan Schmidt	So.
RG	**72**	**John Hafferty**	**Jr.**
RT	65	Logan Robinson	Jr.
TE	87	Donald Raymer	Sr.
QB	9	Dylan Meier	Sr.
RB	7	Parrish Fisher	So.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**34**	**Blake Seiler**	**Sr.**
DT	**56**	**Quintin Echols**	**Sr.**
DT	99	Steven Cline	Jr.
DE	90	Eric Childs	Fr.
SLB	**46**	**Brandon Archer**	**Sr.**
MLB	52	Zach Diles	Sr.
WLB	53	Reggie Walker	So.
CB	22	Justin McKinney	Jr.
CB	**3**	**Bryan Baldwin**	**Jr.**
SS	9	Kyle Williams	Sr.
FS	**2**	**Marcus Watts**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	98	Ian Campbell	So.
DT	**50**	**Alphonso Moran**	**So.**
DT		Brandon Balkcom	So.
DE	96	Moses Manu	Jr.
SLB	42	Ross Diehl	Fr.
MLB		Justin Roland	Jr.
WLB	**24**	**Maurice Mack**	**Sr.**
CB		Devin Anderson	Jr.
CB	**6**	**Byron Garvin**	**Jr.**
SS		Courtney Edmond	Jr.
FS		Antwon Moore	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	19	Jeff Snodgrass	Sr.
P	17	Tim Reyer	Jr.
KR	10	Jermaine Moreira	Sr.
PR	2	Marcus Watts	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 KANSAS STATE ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
12	Evridge, Allan	QB	6'1"	210	So.	Papillon, NE
1	Freeman, Josh	QB	6'6"	230	Fr.	Kansas City, MO
9	Meier, Dylan	QB	6'3"	210	Sr.	Pittsburg, KS
8	Webb, Allen	QB	6'3"	210	Sr.	Denver, CO

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
21	Alsup, Carlos	RB	6'1"	215	Sr.	Liberal, KS
32	Anders, Donnie	RB	5'10"	190	Sr.	Salina, KS
29	Carpenter, Lucas	FB	6'1"	235	Fr.	Manhattan, KS
5	Clayton, Thomas	RB	6'0"	220	Sr.	Alexandria, VA
7	Fisher, Parrish	RB	5'10"	205	So.	Richardson, TX
45	Greer, Courtney	RB	5'10"	230	Fr.	Midland, TX
28	McCardle, John	RB	5'9"	195	So.	Omaha, NE
30	McNeese, Rimmon	FB	6'2"	240	Sr.	Grandview, MO
39	Roxas, Pat	FB	6'0"	240	Fr.	Placentia, CA

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
80	Alstatt, Brett	TE	6'5"	245	So.	Hays, KS
34	Brown, Antonio	WR	5'10"	165	Fr.	Mesquite, TX
25	Coleman, Toney	WR	6'2"	190	Jr.	Arlington, TX
16	Figurs, Yamon	WR	6'0"	185	Sr.	Lakeland, FL
83	Gonzalez, Daniel	WR	6'5"	210	Jr.	Augusta, KS
6	Grigsby, Ro	WR	6'4"	185	So.	Dayton, OH
35	Horne, Garron	WR	5'10"	170	Fr.	Belfast, ME
13	Martinez, Jesse	WR	6'4"	205	Sr.	Napa, CA
10	Moreira, Jermaine	WR	5'11"	190	Sr.	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
27	Nelson, Jordy	WR	6'3"	210	Jr.	Riley, KS
89	Norwood, Rashaad	TE	6'5"	240	Jr.	Kansas City, KS
86	Prater, Nate	TE	6'4"	265	Fr.	Omaha, NE
87	Raymer, Donald	WR	6'2"	235	Sr.	Goodland, KS
84	Richards, Andrew	WR	6'3"	200	Fr.	Keller, TX
33	Taylor, Preston	WR	6'0"	180	Jr.	Gatesville, TX
4	Taylor, Val	WR	6'1"	180	Fr.	Dallas, TX
81	Wyatt, Micah	WR	5'10"	175	Fr.	Crossett, AR

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
60	Bahrat, J.D.	OL	6'6"	275	Jr.	Soldier, KS
79	Bedore, Jordan	C	6'3"	275	So.	Goodland, KS
75	Boss, Matt	G	6'4"	310	So.	Cherryvale, KS
62	Dougherty, Jake	OL	6'2"	275	Jr.	New Castle, PA
72	Hafferty, John	G	6'3"	305	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA
69	Handy, Caleb	G	6'1"	305	So.	Conway Springs, KS
63	Henson, Jed	OL	6'4"	320	Jr.	Nickerson, KS
78	Lucas, Zach	OL	6'3"	275	So.	Sublette, KS
71	Meyer, Derek	T	6'6"	290	Fr.	Campbell, NE
65	Robinson, Logan	T	6'9"	310	Jr.	Agra, KS
68	Rooker, Brad	T	6'6"	270	So.	Omaha, NE
70	Schmidt, Ryan	C	6'5"	290	So.	Boca Raton, FL
73	Spexarth, Gerard	T	6'7"	290	So.	Colwich, KS
64	Stringer, Nick	OL	6'6"	260	Fr.	Topeka, KS
76	Unruh, Brock	OL	6'5"	305	Fr.	Corpus Christi, TX
51	Voegeli, Jacob	OL	6'2"	285	Jr.	Wichita, KS
67	Wafford, Greg	G	6'2"	305	Sr.	Lancaster, TX

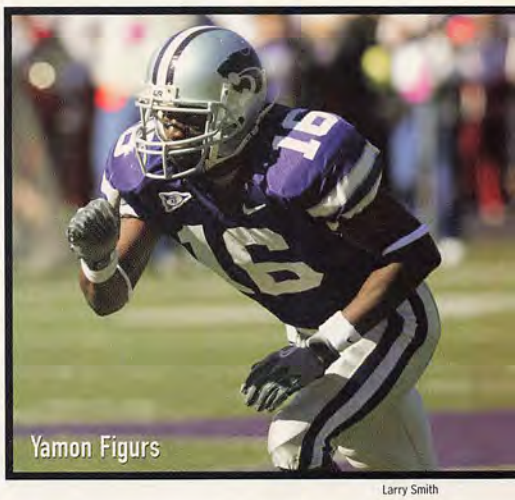
Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
98	Campbell, Ian	DE	6'4"	240	So.	Cimarron, KS
90	Childs, Eric	DE	6'3"	225	Fr.	Arlington, TX
99	Cline, Steven	DT	6'2"	290	Jr.	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
91	Cox, Clayton	DE	6'3"	240	Jr.	Weskan, KS
56	Echols, Quintin	DT	6'2"	305	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
55	Faustin, Vlad	DE	6'4"	250	So.	Miami, FL
96	Manu, Moses	DE	6'3"	260	Jr.	Inglewood, CA
50	Moran, Alphonso	DT	6'1"	290	So.	Delray Beach, FL

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
34	Seiler, Blake	DE	6'3"	245	Sr.	Goddard, KS
49	Straub, Mitch	DE	6'3"	240	So.	Waterloo, NE
48	Yemm, Pete	DE	6'3"	230	So.	Overland Park, KS

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
46	Archer, Brandon	LB	6'2"	230	Sr.	St. Paul, MN
58	Bamberger, Chris	LB	6'2"	220	So.	Jetmore, KS
43	Bortz, Brandon	LB	6'0"	225	So.	Preston, KS
42	Diehl, Ross	LB	6'2"	220	Fr.	Castle Rock, CO
52	Diles, Zach	LB	6'2"	230	Sr.	Tulare, CA
33	Gaskins, Greg	LB	6'0"	215	Jr.	Manhattan, KS
40	Litton, Taner	LB	6'1"	210	Fr.	Beloit, KS
24	Mack, Maurice	LB	6'0"	215	Sr.	Olathe, KS
41	Mathias, Steve	LB	6'1"	220	Jr.	Partridge, KS
57	Rosel, MacKenzie	LB	6'2"	205	Fr.	Liberal, KS
53	Walker, Reggie	LB	6'2"	220	So.	Sacramento, CA

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
12	Anderson, Devin	CB	5'10"	185	Jr.	Ponca City, OK
3	Baldwin, Bryan	CB	5'11"	185	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
31	Bernbeck, Brice	DB	6'0"	180	Fr.	Lakin, KS
30	Erker, Andrew	DB	6'0"	180	So.	Olathe, KS
25	Evans, Scott	DB	5'11"	195	Fr.	Andover, KS
6	Garvin, Byron	CB	5'10"	180	Jr.	Miramar, FL
47	Hamilton, Adam	DB	6'0"	195	Sr.	El Dorado, KS
38	Henricks, Jordan	DB	6'2"	190	Fr.	Manhattan, KS
20	Herndon, Courtney	DB	5'11"	200	Fr.	Dallas, TX
15	Hollis, Kevin	DB	6'1"	195	Fr.	Gilmer, TX
22	McKinney, Justin	CB	5'10"	185	Jr.	Sanford, FL
26	Petrie, Terry	DB	5'9"	185	Jr.	Norton, KS
35	Strozier, Noah	DB	6'0"	180	Sr.	Kansas City, MO
29	Stryker, Adrian	DB	6'1"	185	Fr.	Valley Heights, KS
2	Watts, Marcus	FS	6'2"	180	Jr.	Hays, KS
9	Williams, Kyle	SS	6'1"	200	Sr.	Pine Bluff, AR

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
21	Brokenicky, Cole	P	5'10"	195	Jr.	Manhattan, KS
14	Jones, Tony	P	6'4"	200	Fr.	Defiance, MO
62	Mortimer, Jeff	LS	6'0"	225	Sr.	Delphos, KS
18	Parker, Jared	K	6'0"	180	So.	Ankeny, IA
17	Reyer, Tim	P	6'0"	195	Jr.	Wamego, KS
26	Schwerdt, Tim	K	5'8"	166	Jr.	Tecumseh, KS
19	Snodgrass, Jeff	K	6'2"	200	Sr.	Leawood, KS


Yamon Figurs

Larry Smith

Head Coach: Ron Prince • Record at School: First Season • Career Record: First Season

Offensive Coordinator: James Franklin • Defensive Coordinator: Raheem Morris • Manhattan, Kan. • Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Allan Evridge	**213**	**102**	**1,365**	**6**	**7**
Allen Webb	**105**	**62**	**850**	**9**	**5**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Thomas Clayton	**137**	**637**	**4.6**	**4**
Parrish Fisher	**48**	**289**	**6.0**	**0**
Allan Evridge	**102**	**203**	**2.0**	**4**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Jordy Nelson	**45**	**669**	**14.9**	**8**
Jermaine Moreira	**35**	**485**	**13.9**	**1**
Davin Dennis	20	281	14.1	2

Kicking: **Jeff Snodgrass, 10-16 FGs, 21-23 XPs, 51 points**
Tackles: **Brandon Archer, 72 Marcus Watts, 71**
Sacks: Tearrius George, 4
Interceptions: **Justin McKinney, 3**

Returning Players in Bold

Marcus Watts

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

High energy We're not talking about the players. It's the coaches. They were spirited during spring practice, bouncing around like they were the 20-year-olds. Defensive coordinator Raheem Morris, 29, jumped on 34-year-old offensive coordinator James Franklin's back when he got excited over his defender making a stop. "It's definitely exciting, and a little bit different," senior linebacker Brandon Archer says. "They're having fun, and they really enjoy the practices."

Blue is bad If you had to wear a blue T-shirt during offseason workouts, it was not a good sign. Coach Ron Prince had three different colors of T-shirts for players depending on how they performed. The black shirts read "Champions Club" on the front. The gray shirts were blank, meaning they were in a gray area when it came to effort. But blue — well, the slogan wasn't pretty. It read, "I'm not getting it done."

On the road again For the seventh year in a row, K-State opens Big 12 play on the road. This year, the Wildcats start conference action Sept. 30 at Baylor. In the previous six conference openers, K-State went 2–4.

Time well spent Practices are shorter, and senior defensive end Blake Seiler loves it. "We go about 2 hours, 10 minutes. It's intense, upbeat, and we get a lot done," Seiler says. So how long were practices under former coach Bill Snyder? Seiler knew exactly. "Two hours, 46 minutes," he says.

Facelift The football stadium has plenty of new features, starting with the name. KSU Stadium now is named Bill Snyder Family Stadium in honor of the Wildcats' coach the previous 17 years. Also, there will be new permanent seating behind the north end zone and a 23-foot-high and 61-foot-wide video board on the south end. It all is part of a $4.3 million expansion to the Vanier Football Complex.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 5–6 (2–6 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	Florida International	W	35–21	43,611
Sept. 10	at Marshall	W	21–19	36,914
Sept. 24	North Texas	W	54– 7	46,514
Oct. 1	at Oklahoma	L	21–43	84,501
Oct. 8	Kansas	W	12– 3	49,798
Oct. 15	at Texas Tech	L	20–59	50,813
Oct. 22	Texas A&M	L	28–30	45,915
Oct. 29	Colorado	L	20–23	43,890
Nov. 5	at Iowa State	L	17–45	42,686
Nov. 12	at Nebraska	L	25–27	77,761
Nov. 19	Missouri	W	36–28	46,039

Larry Smith

2006 RECRUITING

A recruiting strategy that helped Kansas State build its strongest teams in the 1990s was the method new coach Ron Prince used in assembling his first class. The plan: Hit the junior colleges. Hard.

K-State's class features 11 junior college transfers. "You could argue that there hasn't been another program to more successfully balance the junior college/high school equation than K-State," says Prince, himself a junior college player at Dodge City, Kan., Community College before moving on to Appalachian State. "Every move we made addressed a roster position."

Although it wasn't a pressing position need, K-State's top juco recruit might be running back James Johnson from Blinn College. He was rated the No. 3 juco running back by Rivals.com after rushing for 115.2 yards per game as a sophomore.

As for the most notable high school prospect, it was quarterback Josh Freeman from Grandview, Mo. Freeman, who enrolled for the spring semester, was rated the nation's 92nd-best player by Rivals.com.

As for addressing its biggest need, which is defense, K-State signed 17 players on that side of the ball. Based on spring drills, one of the most notable newcomers was defensive back Devin Anderson from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, who recorded some bone-crunching tackles.

If the Wildcats need a boost anywhere, it has to be defensive end. They hope Moses Manu from El Camino College will strengthen that spot.

Players to watch who might make an immediate difference include wide receiver Cedric Wilson from Garden City, Kan., Community College and defensive back Courtney Edmond from Blinn College.

Devin Anderson DB 5'10" 185 Ponca City, OK
Named first-team All-Southwest Conference at Northeastern Okla. A&M.

Brandon Balkcom DT 6'2" 280 Hazel Crest, IL
Recorded eight sacks as a freshman at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M.

Chris Carney DB 6'1" 175 Denver, CO
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by the Denver Post as a senior. Recorded 136 tackles and six INTs for state champion Mullen HS.

Ray Cheatham DB 6'0" 185 El Dorado, AR
Named first-team All-KJCCC as a freshman at Independence CC.

Gabriel Crews DT 6'3" 300 Jonesboro, GA
Recorded 18 tackles for a loss and 6.5 sacks as a senior.

Courtney Edmond DB 6'2" 220 La Marque, TX
Named first-team All-Southwest Conference at Blinn (TX) College.

Josh Freeman QB 6'6" 230 Kansas City, MO
Attended EA Sports Elite 11 Quarterback Camp. Ranked No. 4 pro-style quarterback in the country by Rivals.com. Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Threw for 2,622 yards and 33 TDs as a senior in 2005.

Courtney Green RB 5'10" 210 Midland, TX
Named TAPPS Division II District I Offensive Player of the Year in 2004.

John Houlik LB 5'11" 215 Wichita, KS
Named first-team Class 4A All-State by the Wichita Eagle as a senior.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position

Defensive Backs	8
Defensive Linemen	6
Running Backs	4
Linebackers	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Quarterbacks	1
Tight Ends	1
Wide Receivers	1

By State

Texas	7
Kansas	3
Oklahoma	3
Florida	2
Missouri	2
Arkansas	1
California	1
Colorado	1
Connecticut	1
Georgia	1
Illinois	1
Maryland	1
Nebraska	1
New York	1
Oregon	1

Rob Jackson DE 6'3" 265 West Haven, CT
Named first-team All-Jayhawk Conference twice at Fort Scott (Kan.) CC.

James Johnson RB 5'11" 200 Port Arthur, TX
Rushed for 2,384 yards and 36 TDs in two seasons at Blinn (TX) College. Ranked No. 3 JUCO tailback and No. 10 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com.

Otis Johnson DB 5'11" 185 Houston, TX
Member of nationally ranked Eisenhower HS 4x100 relay track team.

Zach Kendall DT 6'4" 280 Peculiar, MO
Named Class 3A Defensive Player of the Year by MFCA as a senior. Ranked No. 5 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com. Won two state titles.

SPOTLIGHT ON...MOSES MANU

Defensive End • 6'3" • 260 • Inglewood, CA

He learned the game from watching John Madden. The Madden video game version, that is.

Kansas State defensive end Moses Manu was born in Tonga, moved to Australia, and came to Los Angeles in time for his senior year in high school. Oh, by the way, did we mention he never had played football when he arrived in L.A.?

"My first high school practice, I was confused. The whole time. I was just standing there," Manu says. "I grew up playing rugby, but this was different. The similarity is you can be physical in both sports, and I like to be physical."

In order to gain a better understanding of what football was all about, Manu took to playing Madden video football, and he began to catch on. That might be an understatement.

Manu, 6'3", 260 pounds, caught 22 passes as a tight end for Morningside High School before shifting to the defensive side of the ball at El Camino College. That proved to be a good move, because as a sophomore, Manu notched 19 tackles for a loss, including 9.5 sacks.

Scott Krehbiel OL 6'7" 280 Pratt, KS
Ranked No. 51 offensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

Jeron Mastrud TE 6'6" 255 Beaverton, OR
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Oregon by Rivals.com as a senior.

Kenneth Mayfield OL 6'4" 300 Randallstown, MD
Recorded 77 pancake blocks on offense; 78 tackles on defense in 2005.

Davyon McGhee LB 5'11" 215 Houston, TX
Named unanimous second-team All-Greater Houston Area as a senior.

Antwon Moore DB 6'1" 218 Ponca City, OK
Averaged 38.3 yards per kick return with one TD at NE Okla. A&M in '05.

Joshua Moore DB 5'11" 180 Pompano Beach, FL
Named first-team All-Broward County by the Miami Herald as a senior. Recorded 10 INTs as a junior and was named team MVP.

Leon Patton RB 5'8" 175 Cedar Hill, TX
Ranked No. 63 prospect in Dallas Metroplex by the Dallas Morning News.

Tony Purvis DB 6'0" 175 McCook, NE
Ranked No. 9 prospect in Nebraska by Rivals.com as a senior.

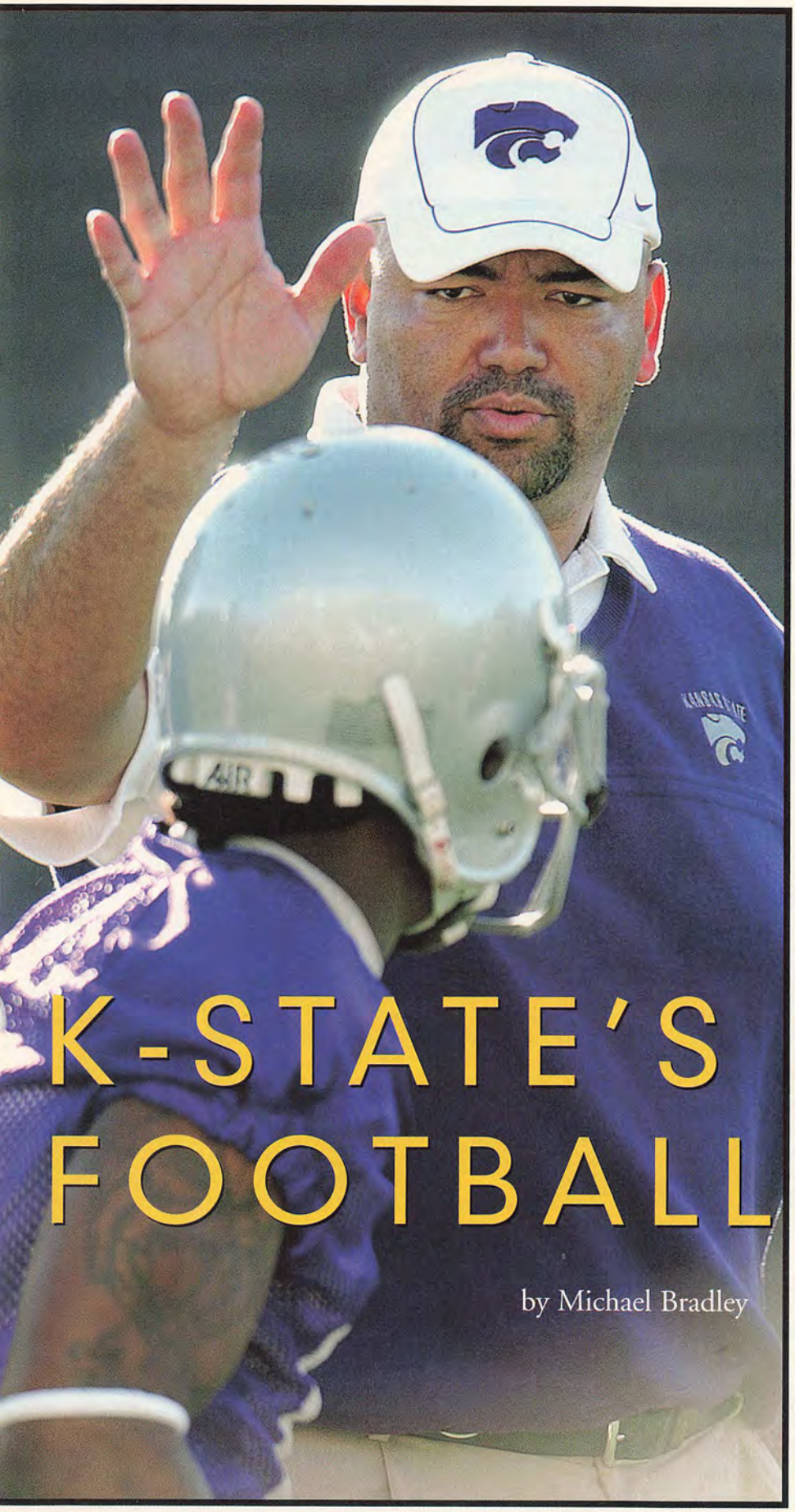
Justin Roland LB 6'2" 250 Ponca City, OK
Recorded SWJCFC-leading 170 tackles at Northeastern Okla. A&M in '05.

Jamal Schulters RB 5'10" 180 Brooklyn, NY
Brother, Lance, played for the NFL's Miami Dolphins in 2005.

Patrick Turner OL 6'4" 330 Houston, TX
Won three District 21 Class 5A championships in the shot put and discus.

Trevor Viers DT 6'5" 265 Windom, KS
Named first-team all-state by the Topeka-Capital Journal as a senior.

Cedric Wilson WR 6'1" 190 Fort Pierce, FL
Recorded five INTs and four sacks for Garden City (Fla.) CC in 2005. Finished HS career with 116 catches for 2,293 yards and 21 TDs.



K-STATE'S NEW FOOTBALL GUY

by Michael Bradley

They don't exactly toss around the compliments. Not these guys. The Bill Parcells family coaching tree isn't filled with pat-on-the-back men. This group wears steel-toe boots and knows how to use them.

Even their highest praise can sound a little light. Ask Parcells, Bill Belichick, Al Groh or Tom Coughlin about someone, and if they like him — really like him — they'll say, "The guy's a real football guy." Not exactly glowing, unless you happen to have a couple Super Bowl rings on your dresser.

To coaches like Parcells, a "football guy" is someone who loves the game. Wants to talk about it. Watches videotape because he wants to. "He's not a guru or a genius," Groh says about the "football guy."

So, ask Groh, the University of Virginia head coach and former long-time NFL assistant, about new Kansas State boss (and former Cavalier offensive coordinator) Ron Prince, and you get a description of his talents. "He's a very bright, very articulate guy," Groh says. "He has an upbeat personality. People respond well to Ron — faculty, boosters, parents, players." Good stuff, all. But Groh saves the best for last.

"Tom Coughlin is a 'football guy,'" Groh says. "Bill Belichick is a 'football guy.' Ron Prince is a 'football guy.'"

There it is, the highest praise from the hottest group of coaches out there. If those men hold Prince in such high regard, KSU fans had better look at their new coach in a different light. Forget your criticisms about an absence of head coaching experience and think about Prince as a person who has immersed himself in the sport and its strategies. As someone who has the qualities necessary to lead. To recruit. To win. More than that, though, Prince is someone who has the characteristics of a modern football boss.

Like many of the young coaches who are assuming the ultimate football responsibilities these days, Prince understands the need for a head coach to be a "football guy" and much more. He must have a vision for the program and be able to communicate that to a variety of constituencies, from his players to the fans to the media. When Groh hired him at Virginia, five years ago, he saw all of that.

"One of the things that was apparent when we got here was that the whole program needed

All photos courtesy of Kansas State SID

an infusion of energy, intensity and passion," Groh says. "We constructed a staff to provide those things."

Now Prince must assemble and implement a plan designed to bring Kansas State back to the levels it enjoyed when Bill Snyder had the Wildcats at the top of the Big 12 standings. From 1993-2003, KSU won at least nine games in all but one season. The Cats won three Big 12 North titles and in '03 routed Oklahoma to win the conference championship. It was a remarkable run of prosperity for any school but a true fantastic voyage for Kansas State, which before Snyder arrived had been the nation's most forlorn program. KSU posted a total of four winning seasons from 1935-88. Four. And even those weren't stunners. The Wildcats won seven games only once during the stretch and had a single bowl appearance (1982 Independence).

Snyder didn't just do it with tremendous motivational skills and clever schemes, although those played a big part in the show. By the time he stepped down, more than $18 million had been invested in the program, giving Prince a much more advanced package with which to begin his tenure than Snyder encountered when he arrived in Manhattan following the 1988 season. That's huge, because he won't be building from the ground up, as Snyder did. All of the necessary pieces are in place. It's just up to Prince.

And while he is completely confident in his ability to rekindle the raging fire that burned in the '90s, Prince knows that he comes to Manhattan as something of an unknown. He has never been a collegiate head coach (neither had Snyder). Plus, Prince was considered the school's third choice, behind former KSU assistants Jim Leavitt (South Florida's boss) and Brent Venables (Oklahoma's defensive coordinator), both of whom turned down the job. "I'm sure I wasn't my mother-in-law's first choice, either," Prince says, repeating a well-worn response.

"TOM COUGHLIN IS A 'FOOTBALL GUY.' BILL BELICHICK IS A 'FOOTBALL GUY.' RON PRINCE IS A 'FOOTBALL GUY.'"

— Virginia Head Coach Al Groh

The turnaround affected by Snyder ranks as one of the top coaching renaissances in college football history.

And now, there are some preliminary indications that the good times are on the wane. The Wildcats were a disappointing 4–7 in 2004, and last year's unit staggered home 5–6 thanks to a five-game midseason losing streak that followed a 4–1 start. Snyder's decision to step down was not directly related to the poor results, because the man should have been able to coach until he was 95 — even if KSU never won another game. That's how much he meant to the program. Lifetime contracts are nice, but only if the program is ready to pay the price for staying too long with one jockey. In 2005, Penn State reaped the benefits of Joe Paterno's hanging around with a Big Ten title. There was no guarantee KSU would have experienced a similar turnaround, had Snyder stayed aboard.

Now, it's up to Prince. He is quite conscious of the situation and the tenuous nature of success at a school that doesn't have the tradition and resources of some of the game's perennial giants. When he refers to the "Miracle in Manhattan" as some call Snyder's turnaround, he looks at a bigger picture. To him, the football team's success wasn't just about the on-field component. There was much more. "It wasn't purely football," Prince says. "It was the way the public felt about the university. We made strides and became a national program.

"People respect Kansas State wherever we go. Our recruiting class represented 15 states."

That's something he must deal with at holiday meals for years. In terms of the KSU fans, however, Prince faces a more demanding audience. If he doesn't win big — and soon — fear will pervade the Wildcat backers, most of who lived through a considerable portion of the school's desultory period as Big Eight bathmats. When a school lacks tradition and long-term success as Kansas State does, any drop-off can be viewed as the first step toward a return of the awful times. Since the Wildcats have had losing records in three of their last four years, another couple stumbles could be disastrous. As one might imagine, Prince isn't thinking in terms of a drop-off, but rather a swift return to the high times of the '90s, even if that doesn't look imminent after the past two years' performances.

"I'm not going to place any limits on what this team can accomplish," he says. "We will move the ball and stop the ball with whatever talent we have available. I would hate to be on a team with a coach who says, 'We can only win so many games.' Which games are you supposed to lose? We're going to give everything we can each week to give the players and the organization a chance to win."

Those looking for clues to how Prince's teams will look on the field can expect to see a mobile quarterback who will be "a second running back." And Prince hopes to build excellent depth in the linebacking corps and secondary, the better to play an attacking defense that asks corners and safeties to play some man-to-man. But listening to Prince talk about his plans, one is struck more by his vision of the program and the methods he plans to put in place to build a winner. Though he's only 36, he sounds extremely prepared for the job. He'll no doubt learn plenty during his tenure in Manhattan, but he has come to town with a clear idea of what he wants to do.

"Once you get named head coach, it's too late to put things together," he says. "You better have a plan ahead of time and be ready to execute it. You have to find out a lot of the particulars, but the broader themes are the things you need to have."

Prince was able to assemble that blueprint throughout a career that had as many stops as a cross-country train. He has coached at Dodge City (Kan.) Community College (where he also played), Alabama A&M, Cornell, South Carolina State and James Madison. He spent four seasons with the NFL as an intern in the league's Minority Fellowship Program, serving on staffs in Jacksonville, Washington, Atlanta and with the Giants. His most recent position, at Virginia, lasted five years and included responsibilities as an offensive coordinator and line coach. We have already established that Prince impressed Groh, but he also had an impact on the Cavalier players, too.

"I think he's an excellent coach," says D'Brickashaw Ferguson, an All-America tackle at UVA in '05. "He's very knowledgeable about football and has a lot to offer. He's the type of guy who'll motivate you with his knowledge and approach to the game. He brings a lot of intensity.

"I always knew he'd become a head coach, because he's such a knowledgeable guy. I just

KANSAS STATE FOOTBALL DECADE-BY-DECADE

	W	L	T
1900-1909	40	35	2
1910-1919	49	29	6
1920-1929	39	32	9
1930-1939	48	34	8
1940-1949	14	75	4
1950-1959	30	64	3
1960-1969	18	80	1
1970-1979	36	74	0
1980-1989	22	86	3
1990-1999	87	30	1
2000-2005	48	28	0

* Bill Snyder arrived in 1989

didn't think it would happen so quickly."

Prince went about his pursuit of the wisdom necessary to run a program much the same way Andy Reid prepared for his time running the Philadelphia Eagles. Like Reid, Prince compiled a binder filled with notes, plans, ideas and correspondences that would help him on his path to the top spot. He didn't make "a dime" during his first nine years in coaching, but the insights he gleaned from other coaches were extremely valuable and formed the framework of his strategy for the Wildcats. "I don't know any other way," he says. "I wrote notes about everything I was doing. When things came up that were profound — 'a-ha' moments — or situations on how to deal with a player, a game or administration, I wrote them down. I kept a detailed record."

The ascent to the top spot at Kansas State is both surprising and fitting for Prince, who grew up 20 miles from campus in Junction City, a town that bills itself as the place "Where the Eastern forest changes to the prairie plains." He remembers following KSU athletics from the time he was a little boy and often went to see the Wildcats play basketball under legendary coach Jack Hartman. His parents, Ernest and Georgeanne, still live in the same house in which Prince grew up. Those looking for a further connection will note that Ernest and Georgeanne Prince hail from Liberty, Mo., home of William Jewell College, Bill Snyder's alma mater. Prince's parents were the people who convinced him that success was out there for him, so long as he committed himself to achieving it. "They said I could accomplish anything," Prince says. "They told me never to put any limits on what I could accomplish."

For a young African-American coach, those restrictions are often imposed from the outside and can be formidable, no matter how optimistic and committed an individual might be. Prince is one of only five black head coaches in the I-A ranks (Washington's Tyrone Willingham, Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom, Buffalo's Turner Gill and UCLA's Karl Dorrell are the others) and will be judged not only as a man running a program but also as an African-American looked at by others as a trailblazer. It's a distinction he recognizes but doesn't dwell on. To him, he is a coach given an opportunity.

"I understand why the question (about his race) is asked, but I wish it wasn't," Prince says. "I didn't think about it, only when it's brought up. I have a tremendous responsibility as a man who represents a football program in this state to stakeholders and players. I want to do a good job for them and their families and my assistant coaches. I am hopeful there will come a day soon when (race) won't be an issue."

The best way Prince can make that a reality is by drawing on his experience and talent and winning at Kansas State. When that happens, he'll be known as a successful coach and nothing more.

Except a football guy.

And that's a good thing.

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The Missouri Tigers return a wealth of starters from last year's 7–5 squad that rallied from a 21-point deficit to win the Independence Bowl. But one player in particular will be especially difficult to replace.

Brad Smith, the face and focal point of the Missouri football program for the past four years, graduated as the school's all-time leading passer and rusher after helping return respectability to Missouri's once-proud football program.

In 2006, Missouri coach Gary Pinkel will be looking for a new face — actually make that faces — to push his program to the next level. "We'll never have a quarterback like Brad Smith again," Pinkel says. "But what we'll do with this quarterback, he'll be more of a distributor of the football. (And) the running backs will carry the ball a lot more. We're not going to be running our quarterbacks 18 times a game."

Smith rushed at least 18 times in eight games last year to top 1,000 yards for the third time in his career, but those days appear to be over. With a new quarterback — most likely Chase Daniel — the Tigers will usher in a new era. Since Missouri won't be a one-man show anymore, who will emerge as the Tigers' main men?

Quarterbacks Missouri's next quarterback certainly has some big shoes to fill, but Daniel has already looked pretty good in Smith's cleats. As a true freshman, Daniel rallied the Tigers from 10 down in the fourth quarter to beat Iowa State in overtime after Smith was knocked out with an injury.

Although a bit undersized, the 6'1" Daniel appears well-suited to run this offense. Daniel directed virtually the same shotgun spread option offense at Carroll High School in Southlake, Texas, where he was named the National Player of the Year by EA Sports. Pinkel says all positions are open, but Daniel will clearly have the inside track after having his redshirt pulled last season to play sparingly in 10 games.

After experimenting as a receiver during bowl practice last year, senior Brandon Coleman decided to stick with quarterback. He'll battle hometown hero Chase Patton, possibly the best passer of the bunch, for the backup spot.

Running Backs The Tigers return their top four tailbacks, and much more will be expected of this group with Smith not around to carry the rushing load. Marcus Woods and Tony Temple split time in the backfield last year, adding a combined 872 yards to Smith's team-leading total of 1,301. Jimmy Jackson and Earl Goldsmith also showed potential as redshirt freshmen, but look out for Connell Davis.

The 6'3", 205-pound Davis redshirted his freshman season but was impressive in practices. With none of MU's tailbacks seizing the starting position last year, and Temple missing the entire spring recovering from shoulder surgery, Davis could challenge for significant playing time in the fall.

Receivers The Tigers have to find a way to get tight ends Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman on the field at the same time. Splitting time nearly all of last season, the two combined for 94 receptions and 1,070 yards to form arguably the top tight end tandem in the country. With only two wide receivers returning with much experience, Coffman might be asked to fill one of Missouri's three receiver spots.

NUMBERS GAME

81.75 After switching to a no-huddle, shotgun spread offense last season, the Tigers led the nation in plays per game — with an average of 81.75.

"The great thing about our system is you can — I don't care really if they're tailbacks, wide receivers or tight ends — pretty much plug people in slots," Pinkel says. "Our goal is to get our top guys playing."

Senior receiver Brad Ekwerekwu enters his third season as a starter, but he'll have to improve on last year's total of 32 receptions for 282 yards. Will Franklin, nicknamed the "Helicopter" because of his high-flying athletic ability, must also show improvement in his junior season after averaging 10.3 yards on 40 catches.

With former walk-on Tommy Saunders the only other receiver returning with much experience last year, juniors Jason Ray or Greg Bracey could finally make an impact. Ray, a physical specimen with good hands, missed all but one game last year with a broken collarbone. Bracey, a top sprinter on the track team, showed improved hands and an ability to make plays downfield in the spring.

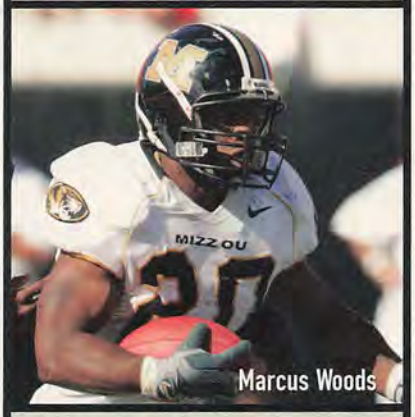
Offensive Linemen Only one starter needs to be replaced up front, but he's a biggie. Tony Palmer, an All-Big 12 guard, started 42 games for the Tigers and was a stone wall on an otherwise inconsistent unit.

Center Adam Spieker and tackle Tyler Luellen are juniors entering their third seasons as starters. Luellen could be a question mark, though, after suffering a knee injury early in spring drills. Last year, the 6'6", 300-pounder missed all of spring practice recovering from shoulder surgery.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE TIGERS

Maddening inconsistency marred Missouri and quarterback Brad Smith for a majority of the past four years. Now, with a new quarterback and more than just one player to zero in on, opposing defenses might have a tougher time preparing for the Tigers. Expect vast improvement in the passing game, but Smith's ability to turn broken plays into big gainers will be missed. Without Smith, the Tigers don't have a proven big-play running threat in their backfield. Redshirt freshman Connell Davis could be that guy. If not, the Tigers will have to rely heavily on their tight end duo of Chase Coffman and Martin Rucker. Coffman was MU's most reliable receiver as a true freshman last year. On defense, the Tigers possess arguably the best collection of ends in the Big 12. But depth issues at linebacker and inexperience in the secondary pose concerns. If the defensive line can pressure quarterbacks into mistakes, MU's secondary has enough playmaking potential to provide a pleasant surprise. Linebacker Dedrick Harrington has to step up and be a consistent, physical presence. Senior safety David Overstreet will be the defensive leader. A quick start is imperative, with four winnable non-conference games on the schedule. An early hiccup — a home loss to New Mexico nearly derailed last season — could prove costly with a tough slate of Big 12 games waiting.



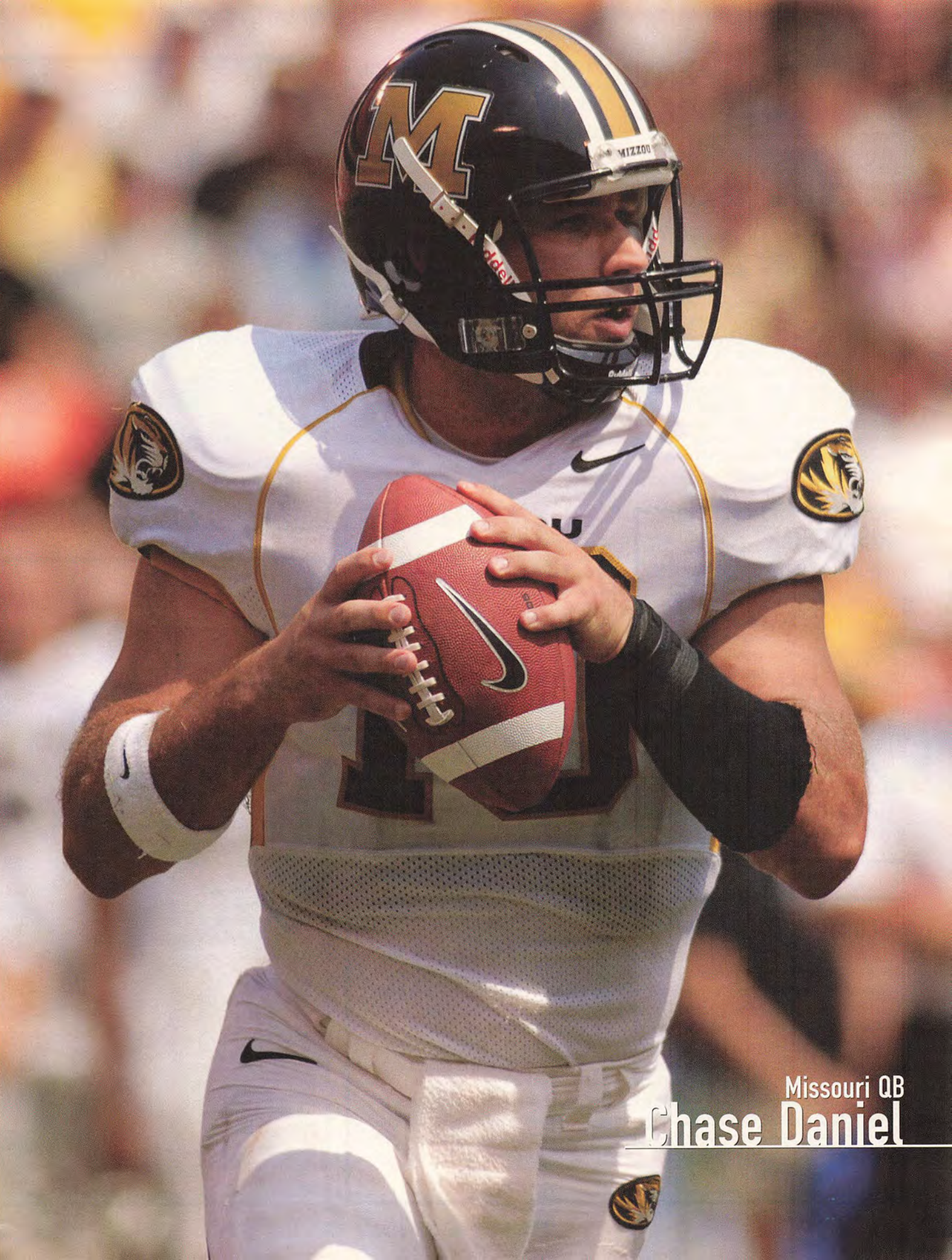
Marcus Woods

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Murray State	W
S.	9	Ole Miss	W
S.	16	at New Mexico	W
S.	23	Ohio	W
S.	**30**	**Colorado**	*
O.	7	at Texas Tech	L
O.	14	at Texas A&M	L
O.	21	Kansas State	W
O.	28	Oklahoma	L
N.	4	at Nebraska	L
N.	**18**	**at Iowa State**	*
N.	**25**	**Kansas**	*

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Daniel: Denny Medley/Icon SMI; Woods: Chris Covatta



Missouri QB
Chase Daniel

Louis Pintola, a serviceable backup in his first year out of junior college, could end up as the starter at left tackle. On the right side, seniors Joel Clinger (tackle) and Mike Cook (guard) are coming off solid seasons as first-time starters.

Monte Wyrick, who started one game in place of an injured Cook last year, will be a junior and get the first crack at replacing Palmer. With redshirts under their belts, touted freshmen Dain Wise and Kurtis Gregory could challenge for playing time along with sophomore Colin Brown. Depending on the health of Luellen, this unit could emerge as a strength.

Defensive Linemen The strength of the defense remains intact with seven of Missouri's top eight linemen back. Ends Brian Smith and Xzavie Jackson are primed for huge senior seasons, but Stryker Sulak could emerge as the star of the defense after cracking the lineup midway through his redshirt freshman season. The tackles — although a bit undersized — are also set, with a rotation of Lorenzo Williams, Jamar Smith, Ziggy Hood and DeMarcus Scott back to plug up the middle.

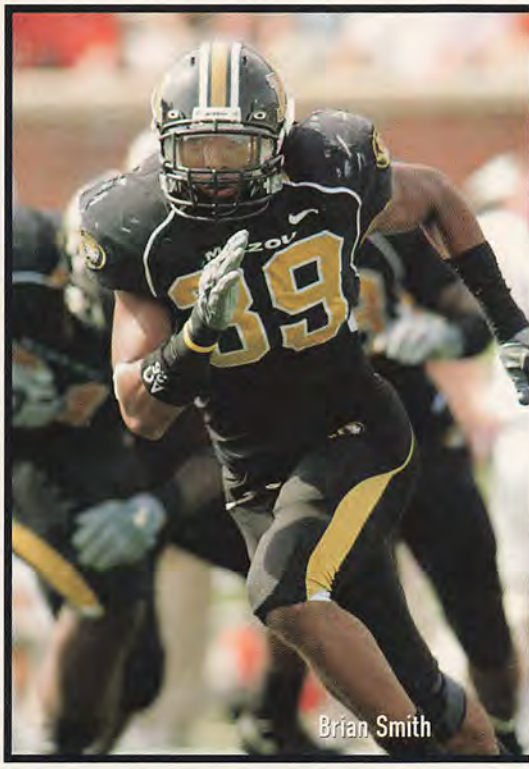
After redshirt seasons, freshmen Jaron Baston (tackle) and Tarell Corby (end) could also find themselves in the mix up front.

Linebackers First-year senior starter Derrick Ming is the only graduation casualty at linebacker, but a loss of any kind at this position hurts because of a serious lack of depth. Dedrick Harrington and Marcus Bacon are the only returning linebackers with starting experience. Harrington is a fourth-year starter but has lacked consistency since moving to linebacker as a sophomore. Bacon is embarking on his third year as a starter. Brock Christopher was impressive as a true freshman and will likely battle sophomore Van Alexander for a starting position. The late signing of junior college recruit Quran Barge in March could pay off in the fall.

Defensive Backs Except for David Overstreet at free safety, major turnover is in store in the secondary, with the Tigers losing three senior cornerbacks and fiery free safety Jason Simpson. Cornerback Domonique Johnson and safety William Moore both played a lot last season and are considered stars of the future.

Cornerback Darnell Terrell, a highly touted junior college transfer, also showed flashes last season. In limited action, he intercepted two passes. Entering his senior season, Brandon Massey will provide depth at one of the safety spots. With the loss of three senior cornerbacks, several junior college recruits could enter into the mix. The Tigers could use the playmaking ability of Castine Bridges, who intercepted 16 passes in two junior college seasons.

Specialists Adam Crossett has been impressive as a fill-in punter the past two seasons. Now the junior needs to latch onto the kicking duties for which he was given a scholarship before the start of last season. Crossett has a strong leg — proven by his career-long 50-yard field goal in the bowl win — but his accuracy hasn't always been there; he also missed a 22-yarder in that game. Matt Casaday could challenge for either position after redshirting last year.


Brian Smith

RISING STAR

Chase Coffman caught a touchdown pass in his first collegiate game and didn't stop impressing all season. Coffman finished tied for the team lead in receptions with 47, and he caught four TD passes on the year. The 6'6" sophomore has the size, hands and bloodline — his father, Paul, was an NFL tight end — to star for years to come.

KEY TIGERS

Chase Coffman, TE
Emerged as team's top receiving threat as freshman.

Martin Rucker, TE
Junior is the total package as a receiver and blocker.

David Overstreet, S
Vocal leader led Tigers with 100 tackles.

Brian Smith, DE
Already the school's career sack leader with 24.

Lorenzo Williams, DT
Former linebacker has bulked up to solidify interior defense.

KEY LOSSES

Brad Smith, QB
Only D-I player to pass for 8,000 yards and rush for 4,000 yards.

Tony Palmer, G
All-Big 12 pick anchored O-line during 42 career starts.

Jason Simpson, S
Hard-hitting team leader started 40 career games.

Sean Coffey, WR
Big target provided rare deep threat in passing game.

Marcus King, CB
Defensive bowl hero among three departed corners.

Tim Umphery

SCOUTING THE TIGERS

Opposing coaches size up Missouri: "Last season was a big year for Gary Pinkel and they went .500 in the league and won their bowl game. But now it really gets tough because they lost Brad Smith. This might sound strange, but I think they could be better off without him. They relied on him too much, expecting him to do anything and everything to move the offense. The guy taking over (quarterback Chase Daniel) is a straight drop-back guy so they'll have a more conventional offense. They use two tailbacks (Tony Temple and Marcus Woods) and they're of the same mold and both have good speed....I thought the offensive line did a better job of blocking at the point of attack last year, and most of those guys are back. They spread the ball around when they do throw, so they've got some options in the passing game....(Defensive end) Brian Smith is a good pass rusher even though he's a bit undersized, but he's got a quick first step and really explodes off the ball. (Linebacker) Dedrick Harrington is a guy who runs well and you've got to account for him on every snap."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**3**	**Will Franklin**	**Jr.**
WR	**86**	**Brad Ekwerekwu**	**Sr.**
WR	4	Jason Ray	Jr.
LT	**79**	**Tyler Luellen**	**Jr.**
LG	71	Monte Wyrick	Jr.
C	**77**	**Adam Spieker**	**Jr.**
RG	**55**	**Mike Cook**	**Sr.**
RT	**74**	**Joel Clinger**	**Sr.**
TE	**82**	**Martin Rucker**	**Jr.**
QB	10	Chase Daniel	So.
TB	**20**	**Marcus Woods**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR		Jeremy Maclin	Fr.
WR	85	Greg Bracey	Jr.
WR	84	Tommy Saunders	So.
LT	67	Louis Pintola	Sr.
LG	78	Kurtis Gregory	Fr.
C	51	James Stigall	Fr.
RG	68	Dain Wise	Fr.
RT	61	Colin Brown	So.
TE	45	Chase Coffman	So.
QB	11	Brandon Coleman	Sr.
TB	22	Tony Temple	Jr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**39**	**Brian Smith**	**Sr.**
DT	**99**	**Lorenzo Williams**	**Jr.**
DT	**92**	**Jamar Smith**	**Sr.**
DE	**38**	**Stryker Sulak**	**So.**
SLB	**15**	**Marcus Bacon**	**Sr.**
MLB	**33**	**Dedrick Harrington**	**Sr.**
WLB	5	Van Alexander	So.
CB	3	Darnell Terrell	Jr.
CB	2	Domonique Johnson	So.
SS	21	William Moore	So.
FS	**8**	**David Overstreet**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	97	Tarell Corby	Fr.
DT	94	Ziggy Hood	So.
DT	58	DeMarcus Scott	Sr.
DE	48	Xzavie Jackson	Sr.
SLB	18	Steve Redmond	So.
MLB	35	Brock Christopher	So.
WLB		Quran Barge	Jr.
CB		Castine Bridges	Jr.
CB	32	Alex Woodley	Jr.
SS	19	Brandon Massey	Sr.
FS	6	Paul Simpson	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	90	Adam Crossett	Jr.
P	90	Adam Crossett	Jr.
KR	22	Tony Temple	Jr.
PR	20	Marcus Woods	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 MISSOURI ROSTER

Quarterbacks		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
29	Barnes, Dan	QB	6'3"	225	Fr.	Marshall, MO
11	Coleman, Brandon	QB	6'4"	215	Sr.	Miami, FL
10	Daniel, Chase	QB	6'1"	220	So.	Southlake, TX
14	Patton, Chase	QB	6'5"	220	So.	Columbia, MO

Running Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
2	Davis, Connell	TB	6'3"	205	Fr.	Portland, TX
7	Goldsmith, Earl	TB	5'8"	200	So.	Denton, TX
32	Huff, Austin	TB	5'7"	185	Fr.	Brentwood, TN
1	Jackson, Jimmy	TB	5'8"	200	So.	Caruthersville, MO
22	Temple, Tony	TB	5'9"	190	Jr.	Kansas City, MO
24	Waldman, Jeffrey	TB	5'10"	205	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
20	Woods, Marcus	TB	5'8"	195	Jr.	Farmington Hills, MI

Receivers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
85	Bracey, Greg	WR	6'2"	200	Jr.	Milwaukee, WI
28	Casey, Adam	WR	6'1"	195	So.	Chesterfield, MO
45	Coffman, Chase	TE	6'6"	230	So.	Peculiar, MO
86	Ekwerekwu, Brad	WR	6'4"	215	Sr.	Arlington, TX
3	Franklin, William	WR	6'2"	205	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
40	Gares, Chris	WR	5'9"	195	Fr.	Hartsburg, MO
43	Gissinger, Jon	TE	6'2"	230	Fr.	San Diego, CA
35	Hoskins, Andrew	WR	6'3"	210	Sr.	Plattsburg, MO
89	Howard, DeQuincy	TE	6'4"	250	Sr.	Tyler, TX
21	Humphrey, Jerrill	WR	6'4"	215	So.	LaGrange, MO
26	May, Blake	WR	6'0"	180	Fr.	Kansas City, MO
31	Meade, Darren	WR	5'11"	180	Sr.	Champaign, IL
87	Null, Lucas	WR	6'0"	185	So.	Crystal City, MO
4	Ray, Jason	WR	6'1"	210	Jr.	Porter, OK
48	Rooks, Brandon	WR	5'11"	195	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
82	Rucker, Martin	TE	6'5"	245	Jr.	St. Joseph, MO
84	Saunders, Tommy	WR	6'0"	210	So.	Kearney, MO

Offensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
60	Bowen, Gordon	OL	6'2"	290	Fr.	Memphis, TN
61	Brown, Colin	T	6'7"	310	So.	Braymer, MO
74	Clinger, Joel	T	6'6"	315	Sr.	Warrenton, MO
55	Cook, Mike	G	6'2"	315	Sr.	Friendswood, TX
78	Gregory, Kurtis	G	6'5"	305	Fr.	Blackburn, MO
73	Lazaroff, David	OL	5'11"	280	Jr.	Chesterfield, MO
79	Luellen, Tyler	T	6'6"	300	Jr.	Bethany, MO
76	Madison, Ryan	OL	6'5"	300	So.	Bethany, MO
66	McCarthy, Chris	OL	6'4"	305	Fr.	Camdenton, MO
59	Pearson, John	OL	6'1"	245	So.	Maplewood, MO
67	Pintola, Louis	T	6'4"	305	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
75	Riggs, Kyle	OL	6'6"	300	So.	Festus, MO
77	Spieker, Adam	C	6'2"	310	Jr.	Webb City, MO
51	Stigall, James	C	6'2"	305	Fr.	Blue Springs, MO
54	Tipton, Chris	OL	6'4"	300	Jr.	Bowling Green, MO
72	Troy, Phinney	OL	6'5"	290	So.	St. Louis, MO
68	Wise, Dain	G	6'5"	290	Fr.	Midwest City, OK
71	Wyrick, Monte	G	6'5"	320	Jr.	Texarkana, AR
57	Zellmer, Zach	OL	6'3"	275	Fr.	Belleville, IL

Defensive Linemen		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
47	Barbo, Josh	DL	6'5"	280	Jr.	Conway Springs, KS
96	Baston, Jaron	DL	6'1"	290	Fr.	Blue Springs, MO
95	Blair, Steven	DL	6'3"	230	Jr.	Godfrey, IL
97	Corby, Tarell	DE	6'3"	230	Fr.	Kansas City, MO
94	Hood, Evander	DT	6'3"	280	So.	Amarillo, TX
48	Jackson, Xzavie	DE	6'4"	275	Sr.	Vacaville, CA
65	Milligan, Zach	DL	6'1"	215	Fr.	Hardin, MO
58	Scott, DeMarcus	DT	6'0"	285	Sr.	Greenville, MS
39	Smith, Brian	DE	6'4"	230	Sr.	Denton, TX
92	Smith, Jamar	DT	6'1"	280	Sr.	Miami, FL
81	Sobota, Christopher	DL	6'2"	245	So.	St. Louis, MO
38	Sulak, Stryker	DE	6'4"	245	So.	Rockdale, TX
99	Williams, Lorenzo	DT	6'2"	285	Jr.	Midwest City, OK

Linebackers		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
5	Alexander, Van	LB	6'0"	230	So.	Columbia, MO
15	Bacon, Marcus	LB	6'2"	225	Sr.	Houston, TX
35	Christopher, Brock	LB	6'2"	240	So.	Kearney, MO
33	Harrington, Dedrick	LB	6'4"	240	Sr.	Mexico, MO
90	McCauley, Brent	LB	5'9"	230	Fr.	Savannah, MO
25	O'Neal, Aaron	LB	6'3"	220	So.	Creve Coeur, MO
56	Patton, Nick	LB	6'1"	225	Fr.	Effingham, IL
18	Redmond, Steve	LB	6'1"	235	So.	Kansas City, MO
41	Ruth, John	LB	5'10"	220	So.	Jefferson City, MO
64	Schumacher, Joe	LB	5'11"	235	Fr.	Columbia, MO
45	Shellnut, Austin	LB	5'11"	205	So.	Eureka, MO
17	Washington, Chad	LB	5'11"	210	Fr.	Lancaster, TX

Defensive Backs		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
24	Breed, Mack	FS	6'1"	205	So.	San Antonio, TX
4	Cardoza, Travis	SS	5'11"	200	Jr.	Springfield, MO
20	Crouch, Brandon	S	5'9"	280	Fr.	Springfield, IL
15	Duncan, Kevin	SS	5'10"	200	So.	O'Fallon, MO
41	Evans, Spencer	DB	5'11"	185	Fr.	Bel-Air, TX
22	Joannes, Alex	S	6'3"	200	Fr.	Blair Oaks, MO
2	Johnson, Domonique	CB	6'2"	190	So.	Texas City, TX
19	Massey, Brandon	SS	6'1"	200	Sr.	St. Louis, MO
21	Moore, William	SS	6'2"	215	So.	Hayti, MO
13	Nelson, Curtis	S	5'9"	180	Sr.	Waynesville, MO
29	Newsome, Sherman	DB	5'10"	170	Fr.	New Madrid, MO
8	Overstreet, David	FS	6'0"	210	Sr.	Dallas, TX
28	Ricks, Hardy	DB	5'11"	190	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
26	Rudin, Erik	DB	5'8"	170	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
14	Shanks, David	DB	5'9"	170	So.	St. Louis, MO
6	Simpson, Paul	FS	6'2"	185	Jr.	Oakland, CA
3	Terrell, Darnell	CB	6'2"	195	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
9	Washington, Trenile	DB	5'10"	185	So.	Marietta, OK
32	Woodley, Alex	CB	5'11"	180	Jr.	Mesquite, TX

Specialists		POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
14	Casaday, Matt	K/P	5'11"	190	Fr.	Plano, TX
90	Crossett, Adam	K/P	6'3"	225	Jr.	Liberty, MO
10	Hoenes, Matt	P	6'1"	195	Sr.	Branson, MO
46	Rellegert, Danny	P	6'1"	200	Fr.	Farmington, MO
95	Teas, Trace	K	6'1"	205	Jr.	Springfield, MO
99	Wolfert, Jeff	K	6'1"	180	Fr.	Overland Park, KS

Head Coach: Gary Pinkel • Record at School: 29–30 (5 years) • Career Record: 102–67–3 (15 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Dave Christensen • Defensive Coordinator: Matt Eberflus • Columbia, Mo. • Faurot Field/Memorial Stadium (68,349)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Brad Smith	399	237	2,304	13	9
Chase Daniel	**66**	**38**	**347**	**1**	**2**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Brad Smith	229	1,301	5.7	16
Tony Temple	**81**	**437**	**5.4**	**3**
Marcus Woods	**93**	**435**	**4.7**	**3**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Martin Rucker	**47**	**567**	**12.1**	**1**
Chase Coffman	**47**	**503**	**10.7**	**4**
Sean Coffey	40	448	11.2	2

Kicking: **Adam Crossett, 14-20 FGs, 39-42 XPs, 81 points**
Tackles: **David Overstreet, 100**; Jason Simpson, 88
Sacks: **Brian Smith, 9**
Interceptions: Marcus King, 3

Returning Players in Bold

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

All-Pro in the family The Tigers have four players — including three of their tight ends — with family ties to the NFL. Martin Rucker is the brother of Carolina Panthers defensive end Mike Rucker, Chase Coffman is the son of former Packers and Chiefs tight end Paul Coffman and Jon Gissinger is the son of former Chargers offensive lineman Andrew Gissinger. Breaking the string of tight ends, senior safety David Overstreet is the son and namesake of the late Dolphins running back, who died in an automobile accident in 1984.

Fast track Mononucleosis slowed him down last season, but Greg Bracey appears to be back up to speed. The junior receiver, who also competes for MU's track team, posted times of 6.8 and 10.49 seconds in the 60- and 100-meter dashes during the 2006 track season. Bracey made a serious push for playing time with an impressive spring.

Broken but unbowed Making his second career start in the Independence Bowl, safety William Moore broke his foot on the game's first play from scrimmage. Moore knew something was wrong immediately but stayed in the game. "I had a lot of people there to watch me play," Moore says. "I wasn't coming out after the first play." But by the end of the first quarter, the pain was too much. Moore was taken out of the game, but not before he made a career-high six tackles.

Big back Missouri returns four tailbacks with playing experience, but none of them stand taller then 5'9". Connell Davis, a 6'3", 205-pound redshirt freshman, offers an intriguing change of pace after terrorizing Missouri's starting defense in practice. "If you ask anyone on our defense that went against our scout team offense last year, they'd circle him and say, 'He's a pretty impressive guy,'" MU coach Gary Pinkel says.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 7–5 (4–4 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	at Arkansas State	W	44–17	32,906
Sept. 10	New Mexico	L	35–45	50,701
Sept. 17	Troy	W	52–21	50,167
Oct. 1	Texas	L	20–51	57,231
Oct. 8	at Oklahoma State	W	38–31	42,511
Oct. 15	Iowa State	W	27–24	55,016
Oct. 22	Nebraska	W	41–24	60,641
Oct. 29	at Kansas	L	3–13	48,238
Nov. 5	at Colorado	L	12–41	49,196
Nov. 12	Baylor	W	31–16	46,425
Nov. 19	at Kansas State	L	28–36	46,039
Dec. 30	#South Carolina	W	38–31	41,332
	#Independence Bowl			

Chris Covatta

Chase Coffman

2006 RECRUITING

It was far from Gary Pinkel's most heralded recruiting class in his six years at Missouri, but the Tigers did address some key areas of need, most notably at receiver, where only two players with experience return, and the secondary, which lost players with starting experience to graduation. At least 10 incoming players — including five junior college signees — were recruited to help at these positions.

Several of these players were recruited as athletes and could help on either side of the ball. Castine Bridges, Cornelius Brown and Tremane Vaughns were all ranked among the top 100 junior college players in the country and will be looked to for immediate help.

Missouri also stocked up on linebackers, a position where the Tigers only had five scholarship players before Signing Day. Two high school recruits and late juco signee Quran Barge restocked the dwindling linebacker depth.

Among the Tigers' high school recruits, receiver Jeremy Maclin is considered by many to be the jewel of the class. The 6'1", 185-pound St. Louis native initially committed to Oklahoma but opened up his recruitment again in December before choosing the Tigers over offers from schools such as Nebraska, Colorado, Texas Tech and Ohio State.

Maclin is also an important recruit for Missouri because he was one of only two St. Louis residents to sign with the Tigers. Missouri signed only four high school players from within the state's borders, falling well short of the 80-90 percent goal Pinkel set when he first took over.

"We didn't do as well in-state as we wanted to," Pinkel says. "I'm disappointed in that. It's very, very important to us. We'll work to get back up there."

Danario Alexander WR 6'3" 190 Marlin, TX
Named first-team all-district in football and baseball. Also won district championship in long jump (23'10") and triple jump (45'10") in track.

Quran Barge LB 6'1" 220 Camden, NJ
Returned INT for 55-yard TD at the College of Sequoias (Calif.) in 2005.

Tim Barnes OL 6'4" 310 Marshall, MO
Ranked No. 4 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com.

Marquis Booker LB 6'1" 235 Ardmore, OK
Named District 5 Linebacker of the Year in 2005. Recorded 156 tackles, six sacks and four INTs as a senior. Converted from running back in '03.

Castine Bridges DB 6'2" 195 Richmond, CA
Recorded 16 INTs in two seasons at Diablo Valley (Calif.) College. Named Golden Gate Conference Defensive MVP and second-team JUCO All-American by J.C. Gridwire as a sophomore in 2005.

Cornelius Brown DB 6'0" 200 Adel, GA
Reedley (Calif.) CC transfer ranked No. 92 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com.

Justin Brown DB 6'2" 200 Blue Springs, MO
North Dakota State College of Science transfer averaged 25.9 yards per kick return as a sophomore and 28.4 yards per return as a freshman.

Bart Coslet DE 6'6" 245 St. Peters, MO
Missed senior season due to knee injury but still ranked No. 12 prospect in Missouri and No. 26 weakside defensive end in nation by Rivals.com.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Defensive Backs	7	Texas	9
Defensive Linemen	4	Missouri	5
Linebackers	3	California	2
Quarterbacks	3	Oklahoma	2
Wide Receivers	3	Florida	1
Offensive Linemen	2	Georgia	1
		Louisiana	1
		New Jersey	1

Dominic Grooms QB 6'2" 180 Tampa, FL
Ranked No. 24 dual-threat quarterback in the nation by Rivals.com. Threw for 1,600 yards and 16 TDs; rushed for 512 yards and eight TDs as a senior. Threw for 1,928 yards and 18 TDs as a sophomore.

Jesse Hernandez DL 6'3" 295 Ardmore, OK
Ranked No. 26 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com. Weightlifter took third place in state powerlifting competition. Recorded 11 sacks in 2005.

Del Howard DB 5'11" 180 Dallas, TX
Named District Defensive MVP as a senior. Recorded three INTs, seven sacks and one fumble recovery returned for a TD in 2005.

Jeremy Maclin WR 6'1" 185 Kirkwood, MO
Ranked No. 3 prospect in Missouri and No. 24 wide receiver in the nation by Rivals.com. Recorded 1,042 receiving yards, on 25.4 yards per catch, and 17 total TDs (11 receiving, four rushing, two passing) in '05.

SPOTLIGHT ON...SEAN WEATHERSPOON

Linebacker • 6'2" • 210 • Jasper, TX

The Tigers have a misplaced Missouri sweatshirt in a Texas sporting goods store to thank for helping to sway Sean Weatherspoon to their Columbia, Mo., campus.

The linebacker from Jasper, Texas, who had initially committed to Houston, ended up signing with the Tigers the day he spotted a Missouri sweatshirt while wandering through a Beaumont, Texas, sporting goods store with some friends a few days before Christmas.

"I saw this Missouri sweatshirt, and it was on the wrong rack and everything," Weatherspoon says. "It was just looking at me. I had to commit then."

The Tigers are glad he did. Among nine high school players Missouri signed from Texas this year, Weatherspoon won the outstanding defensive player award at the annual Willie Ray Smith awards ceremony in Beaumont. Among the finalists for the honor was safety Robert Joseph, who signed with Texas.

Jared Perry WR 6'0" 170 La Marque, TX
Recorded 540 receiving yards and 13 TDs as a senior; 1,000 yards and eight TDs as a junior. Won state championship as a sophomore.

Mike Prince OL 6'4" 295 Southlake, TX
Won back-to-back Class 5A state championships at Southlake Carroll. Named first-team all-state by the TSA. Ranked No. 33 offensive tackle in the nation by Scout.com. Finished career with 47–1 varsity record.

Kevin Rutland DB 6'1" 185 Houston, TX
Ranked No. 51 cornerback in the nation by Rivals.com. Also ran track, winning District championship as a member of the 4x200 relay team.

Brant Scott DL 6'2" 270 College Station, TX
Recorded 85 tackles, four sacks and five fumble recoveries as a senior.

Paul Simpson DB 6'2" 185 Oakland, CA
Won the Golden Gate Conference championship at Chabot (Calif.) CC in '05.

John Stull DL 6'4" 250 Columbia, MO
Ranked No. 16 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com. Had 9.5 sacks in '05.

La'Roderick Thomas QB 6'2" 190 Dallas, TX
Recorded 1,200 passing yards and 13 TDs; 500 rushing yards and six TDs as a junior. Also won state championship in basketball as a junior.

J.P. Tillman QB 6'2" 230 Houston, TX
Attended Missouri's Independence Bowl game in Shreveport, La., then starred in the All-American Bowl, completing 8-of-8 passes for 125 yards.

Tremane Vaughns DB 5'9" 180 Patterson, LA
Pasadena (Calif.) CC transfer was an honorable mention JUCO All-American.

National Forecast **25** | Big 12 North Prediction **1st**

Despite a schedule that includes Texas and USC, Bill Callahan's third season as coach is anticipated enthusiastically, largely because of the final two games in 2005. Victories at Colorado and against Michigan in the Alamo Bowl quickly turned a growing pessimism into unfettered optimism. Nebraska looked like a different team from the one it had been in the first 10 games.

For that optimism to be justified, however, the entire offense, and the running game in particular, needs to improve. Nebraska ranked 96th in the nation in total offense and 107th in rushing. The change in offensive systems, though dramatic, can't be blamed entirely for that lack of production.

The Cornhuskers didn't have an eight-victory offense, despite the surprising play of quarterback Zac Taylor, who persevered in the face of 38 sacks to rewrite the passing section of the school record book. Taylor, in typical fashion, shouldered much of the blame for the sacks, claiming that had he read defenses better, those who were supposed to protect him would have been more effective.

Some of the optimism is based on a defense for which "the sky's the limit," according to nose tackle Ola Dagunduro. The defense has reason for such confidence, especially up front, where a bigger, stronger and faster Adam Carriker is expected to dominate from his base-end position.

Callahan has raised the talent level through three recruiting classes, heavy on junior college transfers. "There's no doubt in my mind that we will be a better-looking football team as we take the field in September," he says. "It fits the profile of what a Big 12 team should look like."

It also fits the profile of a North Division representative in the Big 12 Championship Game. That's how the most optimistic of Cornhusker fans saw it as they left San Antonio last December, anyway. And the optimism has continued to grow.

Quarterbacks Taylor passed for 2,653 yards and threw 19 touchdowns, even though he rarely had time to throw deep. And he was still learning Callahan's complicated system. The year's experience should serve him well.

His self-effacing manner has made him popular with teammates, and his toughness has earned their respect.

"What he brings to the table as a player, man, it's inspiring. Your hair curls up on your back," Callahan says. "You want to play for this guy. Honest to God, he's the most positive, enthusiastic, supportive player that I've ever been around in my career."

Offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Jay Norvell describes Taylor as the eye of the storm. "He's pretty calm out there, calm under fire," says wide receiver Todd Peterson.

Running Backs Cory Ross, who was tied for second on the team in receptions, accounted for nearly 1,300 yards rushing and receiving. Plus, he was adept at pass blocking. Running backs who can't block don't play for Callahan, as everyone understands. Replacing Ross will likely be done by committee. Cody Glenn provides power. Marlon Lucky provides speed and what Callahan calls "cut-ability." And Leon Jackson provides versatility as well as speed. He can line up "anywhere on the field," says Callahan.

Brandon Jackson would be in the mix if not for injury problems. And junior college transfer Kenny Wilson joins the competition in the fall. The only certainty is that more than one will play.

Dane Todd returns at fullback, a blocking and occasionally receiving position in this offense. Todd's two career carries came before Callahan arrived.

NUMBERS GAME

50 The Cornhuskers led the nation with 50 sacks, and those responsible for the majority of the sacks return, with base end Adam Carriker leading the charge.

Receivers Nate Swift came out of nowhere to lead the team in receiving, with 45 catches for 641 yards and seven touchdowns. The 45 catches were a single-season freshman record and ranked third on Nebraska's all-time list. Johnny Rodgers, the 1972 Heisman Trophy winner, holds the top two spots.

Terrence Nunn was close behind, with 43 catches for 495 yards and seven touchdowns. Taylor spread the ball around, throwing to 15 different receivers — including himself on a deflected pass. Walk-on Todd Peterson, also a surprise, is among several others who will be in the rotation.

The passing game will get a big boost if tight end Matt Herian returns to full speed after missing last year because of a broken leg suffered in the eighth game two seasons ago. The roster lists 11 tight ends, a couple of whom, including J.B. Phillips, will play as H-backs.

Offensive Linemen Improved line play was a priority in spring practice. Offensive line coach Dennis Wagner again will mix and match around center Kurt Mann. And the pool of linemen from whom Wagner can choose has gotten larger. "Instead of having six guys, we think we have 10 guys," he says.

Chris Patrick, who started the last two games after not getting a snap in the first nine, handles the all-important left tackle position. Greg Austin has played guard on both sides and is Mann's backup.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE CORNHUSKERS

Nebraska almost certainly will be better, even though its record might not reflect that because of the schedule. Quarterback Zac Taylor was an unexpected gem in the 2005 recruiting class, not only because of his record-breaking passing but also because of his toughness and continued calm in the face of pass rushers who sacked him 38 times. He needs better protection, obviously, as well as a more productive running game to alleviate the pressure. Nebraska ranked 107th in the nation in rushing. A season's experience in Bill Callahan's version of the West Coast offense will serve Taylor well and make him a candidate for all-conference recognition. Defense again will be a strength, with a solid front seven, two deep, led by base end Adam Carriker and middle linebacker Corey McKeon. The Blackshirts will bring the kind of pressure that resulted in a nation-leading 50 sacks, but they need to create more turnovers, a point of emphasis for defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove, who turned down an offseason opportunity in the NFL. The secondary lacks depth across the board and experience at safety. Also, the defense consistently got field position help from punter Sam Koch, who must be replaced. Despite the questions, however, the Cornhuskers have to be considered serious contenders in the Big 12 North.

Terrence Nunn

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Louisiana Tech	W
S.	9	Nicholls State	W
S.	16	at USC	L
S.	23	Troy	W
S.	30	Kansas	W
O.	7	at Iowa State	W
O.	14	at Kansas State	W
O.	21	Texas	L
O.	28	at Oklahoma State	W
N.	4	Missouri	W
N.	**11**	**at Texas A&M**	*
N.	24	Colorado	W

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Taylor, Nunn: Larry Smith

Nebraska QB
Zac Taylor

Matt Slauson and Lydon Murtha, late-season bloomers like Patrick, will be in the tackle rotation, with Andy Christensen and Mike Huff in the guard rotation along with Austin.

With a year's experience, "there's a lot better communication," says Taylor.

Defensive Linemen Carriker, who weighs nearly 300 pounds, is a "freak of nature, unbelievable," says middle linebacker Corey McKeon. Carriker was credited with 9.5 of the Cornhuskers' nation-leading 50 sacks despite constantly dealing with double-teams. Barry Turner, primarily a pass rusher last season, joins veteran Jay Moore at the open-side end.

The departure of tackles Le Kevin Smith and Titus Adams leaves a void to be filled by some combination of Dagunduro, Barry Cryer, Ndamukong Suh, Ty Steinkuhler and junior college transfer Brandon Johnson. Suh could be the best of the bunch with his size and strength.

"Let's face it, in college football the teams that are winning titles are the teams that have big people inside, teams that are dominating inside," Callahan says.

RISING STAR

Ndamukong Suh looks the part. The sophomore nose tackle stands 6'4" and weighs 320 pounds. However, "it's more fundamentals and techniques than just being big," says defensive line coach John Blake. And Suh is still learning those. He played only briefly in two games last season before being sidelined by a knee injury. But he was impressive during spring practice.

Linebackers With everyone healthy, this is the deepest position on either side of the ball. At 6'1" and 225 pounds, McKeon isn't big for a middle linebacker. But he's active, and he's tough. After playing in only one game the previous season, he replaced Barrett Ruud and led the team in tackles, tackles for a loss and interceptions. And his seven sacks were the second-most ever by a Cornhusker linebacker.

He'll be flanked by a combination of Stewart Bradley, Steve Octavien, Bo Ruud and Lance Brandenburgh, all of whom have started. Because of injuries, Bradley missed the final seven games last season, and Octavien missed all but the first half of the opener.

"I bet we're going to be one of the top 10 defenses in different categories," says McKeon, a vocal and always quotable leader. "We have explosive players."

Defensive Backs Nebraska ranked 10th in the nation in pass efficiency defense, and Cortney Grixby and Zack Bowman are returning starters at cornerback. But the safeties are unproven. Andrew Shanle has seen limited action as a backup, while Tierre Green moved from cornerback, where he was a part-time starter, to strong safety in the spring.

Depth is a significant concern at cornerback as well as at safety. So five newcomers, four of them freshmen, will have an opportunity to earn immediate playing time. Andre Jones, a junior college transfer, could fit in at either corner or safety, as could freshmen Ricky Thenarse and Major Culbert.

Specialists As a true freshman, Jordan Congdon broke Kris Brown's school record by kicking 19 field goals in 23 attempts. He was successful on 11 in a row during one stretch. Punter Sam Koch is gone, however, and that's a concern. The only certainty going into training camp is that a walk-on will earn the job. Callahan continues to emphasize the kicking game, with demonstrable results.

"Special teams, to me, is an area where you can improve your team the quickest," he says. "It all correlates to field position."

Adam Carriker

KEY CORNHUSKERS

Zac Taylor, QB
Toughness and durability kept him on the field for just about every snap.

Adam Carriker, DE
Considered leaving early for the NFL, but only briefly, to the Huskers' delight.

Corey McKeon, MLB
Team's leading tackler and talker; an emotional leader for the Huskers.

Kurt Mann, C
Hub of a developing offensive line.

Nate Swift, WR
Pleasant surprise, emerging as a go-to guy for QB Taylor.

KEY LOSSES

Cory Ross, IB
Perfect fit in Bill Callahan's offense, rushing and receiving.

Daniel Bullocks, SS
Will be joining twin Josh in the NFL.

Le Kevin Smith, NT
Three-year starter was a rock in the defensive interior.

Sam Koch, P
Most valuable special teams player averaged school-record 46.5 yards.

Titus Adams, DT
Steady throughout his career, dominating down the stretch.

Larry Smith

SCOUTING THE CORNHUSKERS

Opposing coaches size up Nebraska: "I wondered if Bill Callahan would survive, but he might end up pulling this thing off. Going from an option offense to the West Coast offense is a monumental task, but it looks like they're going to get it to work. They've got a quarterback (Zac Taylor) who is tailor-made for that offense. He's got a quick release, can run some, and is pretty accurate. They've got to do a better of protecting him, though....Losing (running back) Cory Ross really hurts them. He caught a lot of balls out of the backfield and was their most experienced blocker back there. Can the young guys pick up blitzes and stunts? They ask a lot from their running backs in that offense....They've got a couple of good young receivers (Nate Swift and Terrence Nunn) and getting (tight end) Matt Herian back is a bonus because the guy can really catch the football....They've still got a long way to go on defense, but they were a little better at rushing the passer. They played more zone coverage last season, which took some pressure off their corners. (Defensive end) Adam Carriker can really disrupt your offense."

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**83**	**Terrence Nunn**	**Jr.**
WR	**87**	**Nate Swift**	**So.**
WR	17	Todd Peterson	So.
LT	54	Chris Patrick	Jr.
LG	62	Andy Christensen	So.
C	**50**	**Kurt Mann**	**Sr.**
RG	61	Mike Huff	So.
RT	70	Matt Slauson	So.
TE	11	Matt Herian	Sr.
QB	**13**	**Zac Taylor**	**Sr.**
IB	34	Cody Glenn	So.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	84	Grant Mulkey	Sr.
WR	7	Frantz Hardy	Jr.
WR	80	Tyrell Spain	Jr.
LT	76	Lydon Murtha	So.
LG	72	Rodney Picou	Fr.
C	**65**	**Greg Austin**	**Sr.**
RG	78	Brock Pasteur	Jr.
RT		Carl Nicks	Jr.
TE	**85**	**J.B. Phillips**	**Jr.**
QB	3	Harrison Beck	So.
IB	20	Marlon Lucky	So.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**90**	**Adam Carriker**	**Sr.**
DT	94	Barry Cryer	Sr.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro	Sr.
DE	**44**	**Jay Moore**	**Sr.**
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley	Sr.
MLB	**13**	**Corey McKeon**	**Jr.**
WLB	15	Steve Octavien	Jr.
CB	**2**	**Cortney Grixby**	**Jr.**
CB	**14**	**Zack Bowman**	**Sr.**
SS	**30**	**Tierre Green**	**Jr.**
FS	8	Andrew Shanle	Sr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	98	Zach Potter	So.
DT	43	Ty Steinkuhler	So.
NT	77	Ndamukong Suh	So.
DE	99	Barry Turner	So.
SLB	40	Lance Brandenburgh	Jr.
MLB	38	Phillip Dillard	So.
WLB	**51**	**Bo Ruud**	**Jr.**
CB	21	Titus Brothers	Jr.
CB		Andre Jones	Jr.
SS	46	Ben Eisenhart	Jr.
FS		Ricky Thenarse	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	29	Jordan Congdon	So.
P	97	Dan Titchener	So.
KR	20	Marlon Lucky	So.
PR	2	Cortney Grixby	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

2006 NEBRASKA ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
3 Beck, Harrison	QB	6'2"	215	So.	Clearwater, FL
15 Davis, Beau	QB	6'4"	185	So.	Venice, CA
8 Ganz, Joe	QB	6'1"	200	So.	Palos Heights, IL
13 Taylor, Zac	QB	6'2"	210	Sr.	Norman, OK

Running Backs	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
47 Farino, Paul	FB	6'0"	270	Fr.	East Meadow, NY
34 Glenn, Cody	IB	6'0"	230	So.	Rusk, TX
32 Jackson, Brandon	IB	5'11"	200	Jr.	Horn Lake, MS
23 Jackson, Leon	IB	6'1"	210	So.	Pasco, WA
36 Lawson, Thomas	IB/FB	6'0"	230	So.	Parker, CO
20 Lucky, Marlon	IB	6'0"	210	So.	North Hollywood, CA
33 Miller, Grant	FB	6'0"	225	Sr.	Peabody, MA
45 Otto, Will	FB	5'11"	235	Sr.	Fullerton, CA
37 Sampogna, Mike	IB	5'10"	190	So.	Chicago, IL
42 Senske, Matt	FB	6'3"	240	Jr.	Bellevue, NE
41 Todd, Dane	FB	5'11"	235	Sr.	Lincoln, NE

Receivers	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
23 Brooks, Chris	WR	6'2"	200	So.	St. Louis, MO
82 Cammack, Wes	WR	5'11"	190	Fr.	DeWitt, NE
26 Erickson, Dan	WR/S	6'1"	195	Jr.	Omaha, NE
28 Fluellen, Isaiah	WR	6'0"	185	Sr.	Ramstein, Germany
39 Glassman, Dan	TE	6'4"	245	Fr.	Omaha, NE
7 Hardy, Frantz	WR	6'1"	180	Jr.	Miami, FL
35 Harvey, David	TE	6'4"	245	Fr.	LaPlata, MD
11 Herian, Matt	TE	6'5"	245	Sr.	Pierce, NE
86 Hill, Sean	TE	6'3"	255	Jr.	Lisle, IL
81 Mueller, Josh	TE	6'5"	260	Jr.	Columbus, NE
84 Mulkey, Grant	WR	5'11"	185	Sr.	Arlington, TX
83 Nunn, Terrence	WR	6'0"	185	Jr.	Houston, TX
17 Peterson, Todd	WR/P	6'4"	210	So.	Grand Island, NE
85 Phillips, J.B.	TE	6'3"	250	Jr.	Colleyville, TX
48 Sand, Andy	TE	6'2"	225	Jr.	Lincoln, NE
88 Sievers, Clayton	TE	6'4"	240	So.	Elkhorn, NE
80 Spain, Tyrell	WR	6'3"	190	Jr.	San Diego, CA
87 Swift, Nate	WR	6'2"	195	So.	Hutchinson, MN
89 Teafatiller, Hunter	TE	6'3"	220	So.	Kingsburg, CA
10 Tomerlin, Justin	TE	6'6"	265	So.	San Clemente, CA

Offensive Linemen	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
65 Austin, Greg	C	6'1"	290	Sr.	Cypress, TX
59 Byford, Brett	OL	6'3"	305	Jr.	Hartselle, AL
62 Christensen, Andy	G	6'3"	300	So.	Bennington, NE
57 Fredinburg, Conan	OL	6'7"	310	Fr.	Sioux Falls, SD
75 Haines, Victory	OL	6'7"	285	Jr.	Logan, UT
67 Hickman, Jacob	OL	6'4"	280	Fr.	Bakersfield, CA
61 Huff, Mike	G	6'4"	305	So.	Ralston, NE
74 Lingenfelter, Newton	OL	6'5"	280	Sr.	Plainview, NE
50 Mann, Kurt	C	6'4"	290	Sr.	Grand Island, NE
76 Murtha, Lydon	T	6'7"	315	So.	Hutchinson, MN
78 Pasteur, Brock	G	6'6"	290	Jr.	Orlando, FL
54 Patrick, Chris	T	6'4"	290	Jr.	Ithaca, MI
68 Picou, Jordan	OL	6'2"	300	Jr.	Rialto, CA
72 Picou, Rodney	G	6'4"	300	Fr.	Moreno Valley, CA
70 Slauson, Matt	T	6'5"	335	So.	Colorado Springs, CO

Defensive Linemen	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
48 Blankenship, Adam	DE	6'2"	245	So.	Tulsa, OK
90 Carriker, Adam	DE	6'6"	295	Sr.	Kennewick, WA
94 Cryer, Barry	DT	6'2"	280	Sr.	Marrero, LA
54 Dagunduro, Ola	NT	6'2"	300	Sr.	Inglewood, CA
89 Luhrs, Kevin	DE	6'1"	260	Jr.	Omaha, NE
44 Moore, Jay	DE	6'4"	280	Sr.	Elkhorn, NE
98 Potter, Zach	DE	6'7"	275	So.	Omaha, NE
86 Poulosky, Andy	DE	6'2"	260	Jr.	Ponca, NE
85 Rice, Thomas	DE	6'1"	240	Jr.	Lincoln, NE
63 Roark, Craig	DL	6'2"	300	Fr.	Ada, OK
43 Steinkuhler, Ty	DT	6'3"	275	So.	Lincoln, NE
77 Suh, Ndamukong	NT	6'4"	320	So.	Portland, OR
84 Sullivan, Tony	DE	6'3"	235	Jr.	Wahoo, NE
99 Turner, Barry	DE	6'3"	250	So.	Antioch, TN

Linebackers	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
34 Bradley, Stewart	LB	6'4"	245	Sr.	Salt Lake City, UT
40 Brandenburgh, Lance	LB	6'1"	230	Jr.	Overland Park, KS
45 Covey, Nick	LB	6'2"	235	Fr.	Glendale, AZ
38 Dillard, Phillip	LB	6'1"	250	So.	Tulsa, OK
47 Kadavy, Andy	LB	6'0"	225	Sr.	Seward, NE
13 McKeon, Corey	LB	6'1"	225	Jr.	Naperville, IL
58 Moore, Dontrell	LB	6'2"	235	Sr.	Thibodaux, LA
52 O'Shea, Mark	LB	5'11"	225	Sr.	Dallas, TX
15 Octavien, Steve	LB	6'0"	240	Jr.	Naples, FL
51 Ruud, Bo	LB	6'3"	230	Jr.	Lincoln, NE
59 Voges, Brian	LB	6'2"	225	Jr.	Lincoln, NE
53 Wortman, Tyler	LB	6'3"	230	So.	Grand Island, NE

Defensive Backs	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
7 Adams, Jordan	S	6'2"	200	Jr.	Santee, CA
1 Bowman, Zack	CB	6'2"	195	Sr.	Anchorage, AK
21 Brothers, Titus	CB	5'11"	190	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
46 Eisenhart, Ben	SS	5'11"	200	Jr.	Culbertson, NE
18 Gingery, Travis	DB	5'10"	190	Jr.	Lincoln, NE
30 Green, Tierre	SS	6'1"	200	Jr.	Omaha, NE
2 Grixby, Cortney	CB	5'9"	170	Jr.	Omaha, NE
35 LeFlore, Chris	CB	5'10"	205	Jr.	Omaha, NE
33 O'Hanlon, Matt	DB	5'11"	200	So.	Bellevue, NE
24 Rigoni, Brandon	SS	5'6"	185	Sr.	Lincoln, NE
8 Shanle, Andrew	FS	6'1"	210	Sr.	St. Edward, NE
28 Wilson, Bryan	DB	6'1"	200	Jr.	Granada Hills, CA

Specialists	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
93 Alegria, Jordan	K	6'1"	210	Fr.	North Platte, NE
52 Benzel, Bryan	LS	6'2"	255	Fr.	Alliance, NE
29 Congdon, Jordan	K	5'11"	175	So.	San Diego, CA
92 Kelly, Lane	LS	6'4"	270	Sr.	Omaha, NE
19 Kester, Tyler	P	6'1"	200	Jr.	Clearwater, NE
91 Lueshen, Eric	K	6'2"	190	Jr.	Pierce, NE
55 McBride, Nathan	LS	6'1"	205	Fr.	Scottsdale, AZ
82 O'Leary, T.J.	LS	6'1"	250	So.	Omaha, NE
97 Titchener, Dan	P	6'0"	195	So.	Cheyenne, WY
98 Wesch, Jake	K	6'1"	200	So.	North Bend, NE

Head Coach: Bill Callahan • Record at School: 13–10 (2 years) • Career Record: 13–10 (2 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Jay Norvell • Defensive Coordinator: Kevin Cosgrove • Lincoln, Neb. • Memorial Stadium (80,000)

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

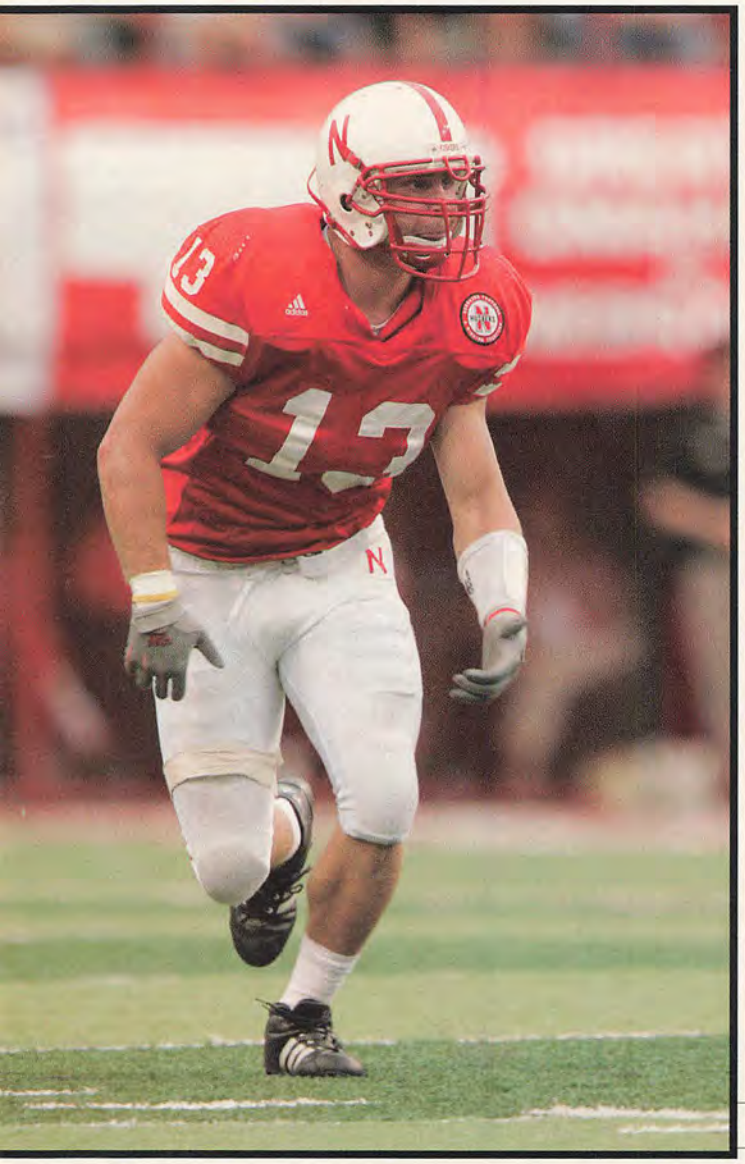
Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Zac Taylor	**430**	**237**	**2,653**	**19**	**12**
Harrison Beck	**10**	**1**	**21**	**0**	**1**

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Cory Ross	225	882	3.9	5
Cody Glenn	**45**	**131**	**2.9**	**4**
Marlon Lucky	**43**	**129**	**3.0**	**0**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Nate Swift	**45**	**641**	**14.2**	**7**
Terrence Nunn	**43**	**495**	**11.5**	**7**
Cory Ross	43	392	9.1	3

Kicking: **Jordan Congdon, 19-23 FGs, 31-32 XPs, 88 points**
Tackles: **Corey McKeon, 98;** Daniel Bullocks, 83
Sacks: **Adam Carriker, 9.5**
Interceptions: **Corey McKeon, 3**

Returning Players in Bold



Larry Smith

Corey McKeon

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Record attendance The opening game at Memorial Stadium against Louisiana Tech will draw a record crowd. Stadium capacity has increased to more than 80,000 as part of a $50 million expansion project at the north end. The project includes the Tom and Nancy Osborne Complex, with a new football locker room, coaching and athletic department offices and performance center as well as an indoor practice facility. Nebraska received nearly 15,000 ticket requests for the 6,500 seats added in the expansion. The Cornhuskers hold a continuing NCAA record of 275 consecutive sellouts at Memorial Stadium.

Youth will be served The Cornhuskers played 13 true freshmen last season — the most in the Big 12 as well as the most in modern school history. Nebraska also played eight redshirt freshmen in 2005.

It's academic Nebraska leads the nation in first-team Academic All-America football players, the latest being fullback Dane Todd and center Kurt Mann, both seniors. Todd has a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade-point average in a biological sciences major. He plans to be a doctor. Mann's GPA is 3.97 in a mechanized systems management major. He received an A-minus in a Spanish class.

Coming to pass Quarterback Zac Taylor threw for a school-record 431 yards in Nebraska's double-overtime victory against Iowa State, breaking the previous record of 342 yards set by Joe Dailey in 2004, Bill Callahan's first season as Cornhusker coach. Taylor now is second on the list, too, after passing for 392 yards against Colorado. Dailey, who transferred to North Carolina, holds the third and fourth spots, while Dave Humm is fifth (297 vs. Wisconsin, 1973) — for the time being, anyway.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 8–4 (4–4 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
Sept. 3	Maine	W	25– 7	77,469
Sept. 10	Wake Forest	W	31– 3	77,380
Sept. 17	Pittsburgh	W	7– 6	77,336
Oct. 1	Iowa State	W (2ot)	27–20	77,433
Oct. 8	Texas Tech	L	31–34	77,580
Oct. 15	at Baylor	W	23–14	40,857
Oct. 22	at Missouri	L	24–41	60,641
Oct. 29	Oklahoma	L	24–31	77,438
Nov. 5	at Kansas	L	15–40	51,750
Nov. 12	Kansas State	W	27–25	77,761
Nov. 25	at Colorado	W	30– 3	54,841
Dec. 28	#Michigan	W	32–28	62,016
	#Alamo Bowl			

2006 RECRUITING

Nebraska again looked for immediate help from junior college transfers, who represented a third of the recruiting class. A year ago, the Cornhuskers brought in 12 junior college transfers for a total of 22 in coach Bill Callahan's three classes. By comparison, Nebraska recruited only 24 junior college players, combined, in the 21 years preceding Callahan's arrival.

Whether or not that will continue, "I don't know," Callahan said on Signing Day. "We'll see where we're at a year from now and see how injuries play into certain scenarios. I don't have a crystal ball. There are all types of circumstantial things that come up through the course of the year that alter your decision-making of where you're going to go."

The areas of greatest need were offensive linemen and defensive backs, and the Cornhuskers filled those needs, signing seven and five, respectively. They also signed four wide receivers.

Prominent among the junior college transfers are defensive back Andre Jones, offensive lineman Carl Nicks and wide receivers Maurice Purify and Tyrell Spain, who enrolled at mid-year.

The top high school recruits include defensive backs Ricky Thenarse and Major Culbert, wide receiver Menelik Holt and offensive lineman D.J. Jones, one of four players from the state of Nebraska.

Size was also a priority, and not just in the linemen. Spain is the smallest of the wide receivers, at 6'3" and 190 pounds. "I believe this is the biggest receiver class we've had here," says Callahan. "These are big-bodied wide receivers, play-makers . . . they're big targets."

The class lacked a quarterback, though not because Nebraska ignored the position. The Cornhuskers got what they thought was a firm oral commitment in June from highly regarded Josh Freeman of Grandview, Mo. But he backed out in late December and went to Kansas State instead.

Pierre Allen DE 6'5" 222 Denver, CO
Ranked No. 34 weakside defensive end in the country by Rivals.com. Also played basketball at Jefferson HS. Named Class 4A Player of the Year as a junior, winning Class 4A state title and state tournament MVP.

Steve Allen LB 6'2" 230 Delray Beach, FL
Fresno (Calif.) City College transfer ranked No. 3 JUCO linebacker and No. 30 JUCO prospect in the country by College Football News.

Cruz Barrett OL 6'4" 315 Daytona Beach, FL
Ranked No. 36 offensive guard in the country by Rivals.com.

Major Culbert DB 5'11" 198 Harbor City, CA
Ranked No. 30 cornerback in the country by Scout.com. Had 1,955 rushing yards and 17 TDs, along with seven sacks and two INTs as a senior.

Victory Haines OL 6'7" 285 Logan, UT
Named team MVP at Snow (Utah) College. Enrolled in January 2006.

Ricky Henry OL 6'3" 280 Omaha, NE
Ranked No. 7 center in the country by Rivals.com. Also wrestled at Burke HS, where he was Class A runner-up in the heavyweight division.

Will Henry WR 6'5" 195 El Paso, TX
Named honorable mention Class 5A All-State by The AP.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

By Position		By State	
Offensive Linemen	7	California	8
Defensive Backs	5	Nebraska	4
Defensive Linemen	5	Florida	3
Wide Receivers	4	Colorado	2
Linebackers	1	Missouri	2
Running Backs	1	Illinois	1
Tight Ends	1	Kansas	1
		Nevada	1
		Texas	1
		Utah	1

Jacob Hickman OL 6'3" 270 Bakersfield, CA
Originally part of Nebraska's 2005 recruiting class but did not enroll until Jan. '06. Ranked No. 28 guard in nation by Rivals.com in 2005.

Menelik Holt WR 6'4" 215 San Diego, CA
Ranked No. 31 wide receiver in the nation by Scouts, Inc. as a senior.

Seth Jensen DT 6'3" 275 Fort Morgan, CO
Ranked No. 4 prospect in Colorado by Rivals.com.

Brandon Johnson DT 6'3" 312 Chicago, IL
Compton (Calif.) Community College transfer recorded 10 sacks as a sophomore, earning first-team All-Western Conf. Southern Div. honors.

Andre Jones DB 6'0" 300 Fort Walton Beach, FL
Ranked No. 4 JUCO prospect in the country by Rivals.com. Recorded 104 tackles and seven INTs in two seasons at Fresno City (Calif.) JC.

SPOTLIGHT ON...TYRELL SPAIN

Wide Receiver • 6'3" • 190 • San Diego, CA

Had things gone as planned, wide receiver Tyrell Spain already would have played a season at Nebraska. The junior college transfer arrived last summer to prepare. One problem. Just before the start of training camp, he learned that a three-credit, online, summer class he had been encouraged to take didn't transfer. So he had to get an apartment and a job while removing the deficiency at a junior college in Lincoln. Then he enrolled and was able to participate in spring practice.

Although he took an art class to become eligible, "I'm not really an artsy guy," he says. "I'm a bug guy. I'm into that right now. You find out some of the weirdest things messing with bugs."

An insect biology class his first semester at Nebraska fed that interest. "It's neat," he says. That the Cornhuskers didn't rescind their original scholarship offer also was neat.

"They were going to stick with me, and so, as a man, I put my word behind them," Spain says. The Huskers had good reason to stick with him. Spain worked his way into the rotation during the spring.

D.J. Jones OL 6'5" 300 Omaha, NE
Ranked No. 16 offensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com.

Ben Martin DE 6'4" 265 Lincoln, NE
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Nebraska by Rivals.com.

Mike McNeill TE 6'4" 215 Kirkwood, MO
Named first-team Class 6A All-State after junior and senior seasons. Ranked No. 11 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com.

Carl Nicks OL 6'5" 325 Salinas, CA
Named first-team All-American by the Calif. CC Football Coaches Assoc. as a sophomore at Hartnell (Calif.) JC. Also attended New Mexico State.

Maurice Purify WR 6'4" 210 Eureka, CA
Had 68 receptions for 1,318 yards and 19 TDs as a sophomore at City College of San Francisco. Named first-team All-American by CCCFCA and offensive MVP of California JUCO state championship game.

Mike Smith DE 6'6" 260 Las Vegas, NV
Recorded 71 tackles and a state-leading 17 sacks en route to a perfect 14–0 record and Class 4A state title as a junior in 2004.

Ricky Thenarse DB 6'0" 185 Los Angeles, CA
Ranked No. 15 athlete in the nation by Rivals.com and No. 11 safety in the country by ESPN. CaliFlorida All-Star game participant.

Anthony West DB 6'0" 195 San Diego, CA
Rushed for 1,320 yards and 14 TDs, with four receiving TDs, as a senior.

Keith Williams OL 6'5" 310 Florissant, MO
Named first-team Class 5A All-State as a senior.

Kenny Wilson RB 6'0" 220 Liberal, KS
Butler (Kan.) CC transfer ranked No. 8 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com. Won state championships in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes in HS.

Corey Young DB 6'0" 190 Omaha, NE
Rushed for 1,670 yards and 22 TDs for Class A state champions.

THE TRADITION CONTINUES

12/20/06

The 8th Annual

GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES

December 20
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GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES PRESENTS THE CONFERENCE USA PREVIEW

They were brought in to build. They were brought in to teach. They were brought in to win. Mission accomplished for both George O'Leary and Mike Price, a pair of veteran coaches who have authored two of the top turnarounds in college football over the past decade. And these coaching lifers could very well meet up in December in the second annual Conference USA Championship Game. O'Leary's UCF Golden Knights, the defending champs from the East, are the pick to edge out Southern Miss for the division crown, while Price and his UTEP Miners get the nod over Tulsa and Houston in the West.

O'Leary welcomes back quarterback Steven Moffett, who played a key role in UCF's transformation from an 0–11 laughingstock to a division champ and bowl team. Moffett passed for 2,925 yards and 22 touchdowns, and the Golden Knights won their last five regular-season games to earn a spot in the league title game and a berth in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl against Nevada. Moffett got some help from freshman tailback Kevin Smith, who rushed for 1,178 yards (including 202 in the bowl game) en route to earning C-USA Freshman of the Year honors.

Southern Miss is a perennial threat under coach Jeff Bower, who has directed the Golden Eagles to 12 straight winning seasons. USM will be breaking in a new quarterback — Jeremy Young has a slight edge over Michigan State transfer Stephen Reaves — and there are some holes to fill on defense, but Bower figures to have his club in the chase all season long.

UTEP welcomes back one of the league's top NFL prospects, quarterback Jordan Palmer, the younger brother of current Bengals' star Carson Palmer. The Miners also have plenty of weapons for Palmer to work with, including running back Marcus Thomas, a former *Parade* All-American, and speedy wideout Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. UTEP looked to be on its way to the West division title last fall, but a late-season slide opened the door for Tulsa.

The Golden Hurricane return quarterback Paul Smith who, as a sophomore, quietly emerged as one of the best in the conference. He passed for 2,847 yards and 20 touchdowns and was intercepted only six times. Only UAB quarterback Darrell Hackney, who completed his career, had a higher pass efficiency rating.

Houston is another club with high hopes and a standout quarterback. Senior Kevin Kolb has made 36 straight starts and is the school's career leader in total offense (9,752) and rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (19).

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

C-USA East

1. UCF
2. SOUTHERN MISS
3. EAST CAROLINA
4. MEMPHIS
5. MARSHALL
6. UAB

C-USA West

1. UTEP
2. TULSA
3. HOUSTON
4. SMU
5. TULANE
6. RICE

C-USA NOTEBOOK »

LATE NIGHT WITH KRAGTHORPE

So who's going to argue with the methods of a defending conference champion? Tulsa coach Steve Kragthorpe conducted most of his spring practices late in the evening to accommodate the players' class schedules.

Don Tomkalski, Tulsa's media relations director, said nine of the practices began at 9:20 p.m. and ended no later than 11:30 p.m.

"The practices went well," he says. "The players didn't seem to mind."

STRONGER BY THE DOZEN

Southern Miss, under coach Jeff Bower, has accomplished what only six other schools have. The Golden Eagles have posted 12 straight non-losing seasons to join Florida, Florida State, Miami (Ohio), Michigan, Toledo and Virginia Tech in a prestigious group.

LIBERTY BOWL ALTERS TIE-IN

The AutoZone Liberty Bowl will offer Conference USA a different opponent in 2006. The game had invited the Mountain West Conference champion since the late 1990s to oppose the C-USA champ but will now invite an SEC foe for C-USA for the next four years.

A HOLLYWOOD TRIBUTE

The 1970 plane crash that killed 75 members of the Marshall University football team will be the subject of the upcoming movie *We Are Marshall*, filmed by Warner Brothers and Legendary Pictures. It will star Matthew McConaughey as coach Jack Lengyel and Matthew Fox of ABC's *Lost* as coach Red Dawson. The movie will be based on the actual events in the early 1970s and the effect the tragedy had on the Huntington community.

A TULANE TRIBUTE

The 2005 Tulane football team was honored after last season for its perseverance in the face of adversity. The Green Wave received the 2005 Courage Award, presented by the Football Writers Association of American and the FedEx Orange Bowl. The program also received the 2005 Disney's Wide World of Sports Spirit Award, given annually to the college football's most inspirational athlete or team.

Tulane was displaced from New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina. As a result, the Green Wave were forced to relocate eventually to Ruston, La., and play each of its 11 games away from home.

2005 C-USA STANDINGS

C-USA East	Conf.	Overall
UCF	7–1	8–5
MEMPHIS	5–3	7–5
SOUTHERN MISS	5–3	7–5
EAST CAROLINA	4–4	5–6
MARSHALL	3–5	4–7
UAB	3–5	5–6
C-USA West		
TULSA	6–2	9–4
UTEP	5–3	8–4
SMU	4–4	5–6
HOUSTON	4–4	6–6
RICE	1–7	1–10
TULANE	1–7	2–9

GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES PRESENTS THE CONFERENCE USA PREVIEW

2006 ATHLON PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE USA TEAM »

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB PAUL SMITH
6'2" 193 JR. TULSA
THREW 20 TD PASSES AND ONLY 6 INTS LAST YEAR

RB AHMAD BRADSHAW
5'11" 192 JR. MARSHALL
HAD 997 RUSHING AND 381 RECEIVING YARDS

RB KEVIN SMITH
6'1" 195 SO. UCF
WAS ONE OF THREE 1,000-YARD RUSHERS IN C-USA

WR AUNDRAE ALLISON
6'1" 192 SR. ECU
AVERAGED 7.8 CATCHES AND 93.1 YARDS PER GAME

WR VINCENT MARSHALL
5'8" 175 SR. HOUSTON
HAS 12 CAREER 100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

TE SHAWN NELSON
6'5" 225 SO. SOUTHERN MISS
HAD 35 CATCHES FOR 540 YARDS AND 5 TDS

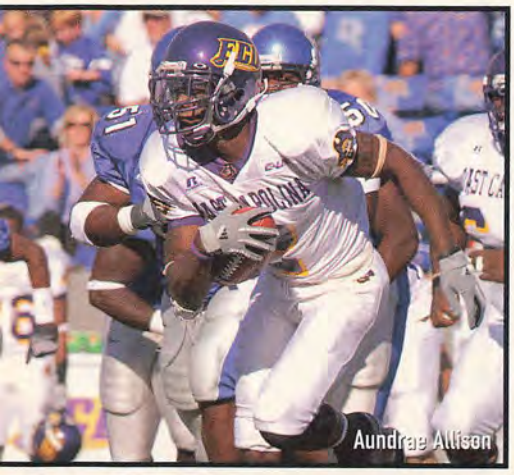
C DOUG LEGURSKY
6'3" 311 JR. MARSHALL
LEADER OF A VETERAN HERD OFFENSIVE LINE

OL GEORGE BATISTE
6'5" 309 SR. SOUTHERN MISS
EARNED FIRST-TEAM C-USA HONORS IN '05

OL TRAVIS COOLEY
6'2" 285 SR. SOUTHERN MISS
SECOND-TEAM ALL-C-USA IN 2005

OL CEDRIC GAGNE-MARCOUX
6'2" 280 SR. UCF
NAMED TO LOMBARDI ROTARY WATCH LIST IN '06

OL JEFF PERRETT
6'7" 329 SR. TULSA
BEGINS HIS FOURTH YEAR AS A STARTER


Aundrae Allison

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL MARCUS HANDS
6'5" 270 JR. EAST CAROLINA
HAD NINE TACKLES FOR A LOSS

DL LARRY MCSWAIN
6'1" 255 SR. UAB
ONE OF 42 ON THE LOTT TROPHY WATCH LIST

DL ALEX OBOMESE
6'3" 245 SR. UTEP
RECORDED 10.5 TACKLES FOR A LOSS

DL JUSTIN ROGERS
6'4" 250 SR. SMU
SECOND IN C-USA WITH SEVEN SACKS

LB NICK BUNTING
6'1" 235 SR. TULSA
FINISHED WITH FIVE SACKS

LB NELSON COLEMAN
6'2" 235 JR. TULSA
LED GOLDEN HURRICANE WITH 117 TACKLES

LB TROY COLLAVO
6'0" 235 SR. UTEP
RECORDED 112 STOPS; MISSED SPRING WITH INJURY

CB BOBBY BLACKSHIRE
6'3" 205 SR. TULSA
EARNED FIRST-TEAM ALL-LEAGUE HONORS IN '05

CB JOE BURNETT
5'11" 180 SO. UCF
A FIRST-TEAM LEAGUE PICK AS A FRESHMAN

S WESLEY SMITH
6'3" 195 SR. MEMPHIS
IS A THREE-TIME ALL C-USA FIRST-TEAM SELECTION

S BRANDON SUMRALL
5'11" 185 JR. SOUTHERN MISS
TIED FOR THE TEAM LEAD WITH FOUR INTERCEPTIONS

SPECIALISTS

PK DARREN MCCALEB
5'11" 165 SR. SOUTHERN MISS
DRILLED SCHOOL-RECORD 23 FIELD GOALS

KR JESSIE HENDERSON
5'9" 175 SO. SMU
AVERAGED LEAGUE-LEADING 27.4 YARDS PER RETURN

P MICHAEL GIBSON
6'2" 210 SR. MEMPHIS
EX-AUBURN PUNTER AVERAGED 44.6 YARDS PER KICK IN 2005

PR JOE BURNETT
5'11" 180 SO. UCF
AVERAGED 16.5 YARDS PER RETURN

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB JORDAN PALMER
6'5" 235 SR. UTEP

RB MARCUS THOMAS
6'1" 215 JR. UTEP

RB DEMYRON MARTIN
6'2" 215 SO. SMU

WR MIKE WALKER
6'2" 200 SR. UCF

WR JOHNNIE LEE HIGGINS
6'0" 180 SR. UTEP

TE RYAN KENNEDY
6'5" 265 SR. SMU

C STERLING DOTY
6'1" 295 SR. HOUSTON

OL SIRVINCENT ROGERS
6'3" 305 JR. HOUSTON

OL BLAKE BUTLER
6'3" 287 SR. MEMPHIS

OL JULIUS WILSON
6'5" 310 SR. UAB

OL PATRICK BROWN
6'5" 265 SO. UCF

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL ADRIAN HAYWOOD
6'3" 280 SR. SMU

DL ANTONIO HARRIS
6'2" 271 JR. TULANE

DL ZACH WEST
6'5" 295 SR. UTEP

DL JERMAINE MCELVEEN
6'5" 250 SR. UAB

LB JEREMY JONES
6'1" 235 SR. UTEP

LB WADE KOEHL
6'2" 230 SR. HOUSTON

LB MASTAKI SMITH
5'10" 230 SR. UAB

CB NICK GRAHAM
5'11" 191 SR. TULSA

CB ROCKY SCHWARTZ
5'11" 195 JR. HOUSTON

S JOEY STURDIVANT
6'2" 210 SR. SMU

S CURTIS KEYES
6'0" 206 SR. MARSHALL

SPECIALISTS

PK REAGAN SCHNEIDER
6'0" 180 SR. UTEP

P JARED SCRUGGS
6'3" 190 SR. RICE

KR JESSIE HENDERSON
5'9" 175 SO. SMU

PR VINCENT MARSHALL
5'8" 175 SR. HOUSTON

Allison, Doss: Tim Jackson

BIG SHOES TO FILL »

JOSEPH DOSS, RB, MEMPHIS

Doss has to replace DeAngelo Williams, who was not only the three-time Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year, but also one of top rushers in NCAA history.

CHARLES RAMSEY, TE, TULSA

Garrett Mills was college football's most productive tight end in 2005. He led the league with 1,235 yard receiving and helped the Golden Hurricane to the C-USA title and a win in the Liberty Bowl.

CHRIS WILLIAMS/SAM HUNT, QB, UAB

Williams and Hunt must direct an offense that was run capably by Darrell Hackney the past four years. Coach Watson Brown will employ two QBs, which will relieve some of the pressure off the newcomers.

KEITH PATTERSON, DEF. COORDINATOR, TULSA

Todd Graham left to take the head coaching job at Rice. Under Graham, Tulsa ranked second in C-USA in total defense (348.3 ypg) last year and third in scoring defense (23.5 ppg).

2006 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	5	4	1	10	5	11	5
HOUSTON	3	12	2	2	11	5	3
MARSHALL	8	2	6	5	2	3	9
MEMPHIS	7	10	4	6	8	7	6
RICE	12	11	11	12	12	10	11
SMU	10	5	8	9	3	9	12
SOUTHERN MISS	9	6	3	7	7	8	7
TULANE	6	9	9	11	10	12	10
TULSA	1	8	10	3	9	1	1
UAB	11	3	12	4	4	4	8
UCF	4	1	7	1	6	6	2
UTEP	2	7	5	8	1	2	4

Joseph Doss

C-USA RETURNING CONFERENCE LEADERS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Jordan Palmer, UTEP	434	258	19	59.4	3,503	29	291.9
Kevin Kolb, Houston	420	254	15	60.5	3,258	19	271.5
James Pinkney, East Carolina	366	222	8	60.7	2,773	14	252.1

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G	Long
Kevin Smith, UCF	249	1,178	4.7	9	90.6	78
Ahmad Bradshaw, Marshall	214	997	4.7	9	90.6	56
Quinton Smith, Rice	140	902	6.4	5	82.0	58

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G	Long
Aundrae Allison, East Carolina	83	1,024	12.3	7	93.1	59
Mike Walker, UCF	64	855	13.4	9	77.4	41

Tackles: Jeremy Jones, UTEP (131); Joe Sturdivant, SMU (112)

Sacks: Justin Rogers, SMU (7.0); Alex Obomese, UTEP (6.5)

2005 C-USA TEAM STATS & RANKINGS

	Offense				Defense			
	Score	Rush	Pass	Total	Score	Rush	Pass	Total
EAST CAROLINA	24.3 (8)	137.5 (7)	256.0 (4)	393.5 (7)	28.8 (10)	217.6 (12)	184.9 (4)	402.5 (9)
HOUSTON	28.1 (5)	166.4 (4)	272.3 (3)	438.8 (1)	27.0 (8)	177.2 (8)	220.2 (6)	397.4 (8)
MARSHALL	18.5 (12)	127.2 (9)	205.1 (9)	332.3 (10)	25.9 (7)	161.8 (6)	178.5 (1t)	340.3 (1)
MEMPHIS	27.2 (7)	267.9 (1)	130.0 (11)	397.9 (6)	23.0 (2)	125.6 (1)	279.8 (12)	405.4 (10)
RICE	21.9 (9)	234.2 (2)	103.3 (12)	337.5 (9)	40.6 (12)	212.0 (11)	242.5 (10)	454.5 (12)
SMU	20.8 (11)	132.2 (8)	176.1 (10)	308.3 (12)	25.5 (5)	142.6 (2)	250.0 (11)	392.6 (6)
SOUTHERN MISS	29.6 (3)	111.3 (11)	246.0 (5)	357.3 (8)	22.7 (1)	159.8 (4)	234.2 (8)	394.1 (7)
TULANE	21.3 (10)	89.0 (12)	231.9 (8)	320.9 (11)	31.6 (11)	193.5 (10)	178.5 (1t)	372.1 (3)
TULSA	33.1 (1)	165.1 (5)	237.2 (6)	402.2 (4)	23.5 (3)	165.0 (7)	183.3 (3)	348.3 (2)
UAB	27.9 (6)	142.5 (6)	292.1 (2)	434.6 (2)	24.0 (4)	148.1 (3)	224.3 (7)	372.4 (4)
UCF	28.7 (4)	167.1 (3)	234.2 (7)	401.3 (5)	28.7 (9)	178.9 (9)	241.5 (9)	420.5 (11)
UTEP	31.8 (2)	122.2 (10)	300.6 (1)	422.8 (3)	25.9 (6)	160.7 (5)	212.8 (5)	373.4 (5)

National Forecast 64 | C-USA West Prediction 3rd

Well, it certainly was an interesting offseason for the Cougars, who underwent seismic coaching-staff changes following their terrible performance in the Fort Worth Bowl. The biggest change was the promotion of inside linebackers coach Alan Weddell to defensive coordinator, where he will replace Ron Harris. The Cougars also hired Larry N. Jackson from Oklahoma to revamp their woeful strength and conditioning program.

The changes are expected to translate into victories on the field. They had better. While last season's 6–6 finish was a big step forward from the injury-ravaged 3–8 record the year before, it was a tremendous disappointment since the Cougars were expected to challenge for the championship in the reorganized Conference USA. This season's expectations are the same, mostly because most everything between the lines will be remarkably similar.

The Cougars' signature fast-break offense returns almost everyone from a unit that rang up 28.1 points and 438.8 yards per game, so this year's squad should be able to put up some pretty impressive numbers. The defense should be better — or at least not worse — than last year's, which was adequate after it adjusted to the 3-4 scheme.

Briles was given a mulligan for his injury-ravaged 2004 campaign, so after last year's disappointing .500 finish, the honeymoon is over in Houston.

Quarterbacks There's no need to pluralize this heading since the Cougars return Kevin Kolb, the NCAA's returning career leader in total offense (9,752 yards), passing yards (9,155), total plays (1,494) and pass completions (672). Kolb took every snap for the Cougars last season, throwing for 3,258 yards and 19 touchdowns with a 133.42 efficiency rating. Despite those impressive numbers, Kolb seemed out of sync for much of the season, as evidenced by his 15 interceptions, more than his first two seasons combined (12 total).

Blake Joseph is the depth-chart backup, but that's about the only way his name will appear in the game notes. Kolb is taking a string of 36 straight starts into the season, tops among active Division I quarterbacks.

Running Backs The Cougars graduated their top two rushers from the last three seasons — Anthony Evans, who had 1,149 yards in 2003 and 788 yards in 2004, and Ryan Gilbert, who blew up last season after Evans went down with a knee injury, finishing with 1,037 yards and nine touchdowns.

Enter senior Jackie Battle, the former 3rd-and-1 bulldozer who is now expected to be the 1st-and-10 guy. Battle, who was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2003 Hawaii Bowl after rushing for 124 yards and three touchdowns on 19 carries, has trimmed 20 pounds off his 6'2" frame and will play this season at 250 pounds.

Briles also moved Roshawn Pope, a former high school quarterback, from safety to running back, bringing an injection of pure speed to the backfield.

NUMBERS GAME

2–0 Art Briles has an 11–13 record against C-USA teams, but the Cougars coach is 2–0 vs. the SEC, with both wins against Mississippi State.

Receivers This is by far the deepest, most talented unit on the team. The group will be led by senior speedster Vincent Marshall, who just missed a 1,000-yard season last year, finishing with 939 yards. He should be Kolb's go-to guy this season.

The biggest problem the Cougars must address is finding a field-stretching playmaker. It is hoped that junior Donnie Avery (44 receptions, 688 yards, 5 TDs) will be that guy. Biren Ealy, a transfer from Arizona, has the kind of size (6'3", 195) that should make him a prime target.

The Cougars didn't come close to exploiting Jeron Harvey, a sure-handed 6'5" gazelle who caught only 14 balls last season but averaged 18.4 yards per catch. Harvey and tight end Rodney Hannah, a 6'8", 245-pound specimen last seen playing power forward on the basketball team, should give Kolb some outstanding red zone targets.

Offensive Linemen After a miserable 2004 season, the offensive line came through in a big way last year. SirVincent Rogers emerged as a force, and the 6'3", 305-pound junior left tackle should lead another solid line this time around. Alongside Rogers should be junior guard Jeff Akeroyd, who has fully recovered from the knee injury — and subsequent surgery — he suffered last spring.

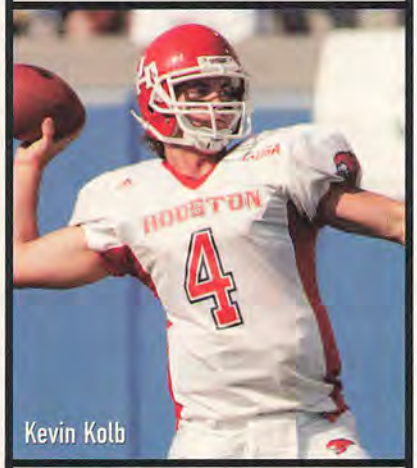
Lining up on the other side will be junior guard Byron Alfred, another big man (290 pounds) who has recovered from a knee injury sustained in spring practice last year, and junior tackle Dustin Dickinson, who started all 12 games last season.

By far the biggest improvement was made by center Sterling Doty, who was overmatched in 2004 after transferring from Army. After getting pushed around the previous season, Doty hit the weight room and wound up starting all 12 games last year, anchoring a unit that gave up only 29 sacks — down from 44 in '04.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE COUGARS

The Cougars showed a three-game improvement over 2004, but they fell short of what was anticipated or expected. The season ended with a 42–13 loss to Kansas in the Fort Worth Bowl, a disappointing conclusion to a frustrating year. On paper, the Cougars appear to be loaded, at least on offense. Kevin Kolb's arm, Vincent Marshall's hands and Jackie Battle's legs should be enough to carry an offense that averaged 28.1 points and 438.8 yards per game. Battle, who shed 20 pounds off his 6'3" frame in anticipation of a greater workload, will be a key since the Cougars need to replace 1,000-yard rusher Ryan Gilbert. Defensively, the Cougars need to find a playmaking defensive end if they hope to improve last year's stats (27.0 points, 397.4 yards per game). They're hoping that 6'3", 300-pound Cody Pree, who is coming off an outstanding redshirt freshman year (42 tackles, four sacks), will be that guy. Special teams were an embarrassment last year, with the Cougars next-to-last in the nation in net punting (27.6 yards). Another area that needs attention is discipline — the Cougars were among the worst in the nation in penalties (7.75) and penalty yards per game (69.2).



Kevin Kolb

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	at Rice	W
S.	9	Tulane	W
S.	16	Grambling State	W
S.	23	Oklahoma State	W
S.	30	at Miami	L
O.	7	UL Lafayette	W
O.	**14**	**at Southern Miss**	*
O.	**21**	**UTEP**	*
O.	**28**	**UCF**	*
N.	**4**	**Tulsa**	*
N.	11	at SMU	W
N.	**18**	**at Memphis**	*

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Kolb: Charles Small

Defensive Linemen There's plenty of potential up front, but that has to be translated into performance. The one given is senior nose tackle Marquay Love, a 6'0", 320-pound bundle of disruptive athletic energy.

The Cougars have to replace end Kade Lane, who was more blue-collar than blue-chip. But stepping in will be Phillip Hunt, a sophomore who will be paired with another second-year player who enjoyed a breakout season last year, Cody Pree. Both were named to last season's C-USA All-Freshman team. Pree had a string of five starts towards the end of the season, and he showed signs of being a real playmaker, as evidenced by his four sacks.

The coaches are still looking for a bigger, longer player for one of the end spots, a search that took a hit when Sebastian Vollmer, an offensive lineman/tight end who will get some looks at defensive end, broke a leg in the spring.

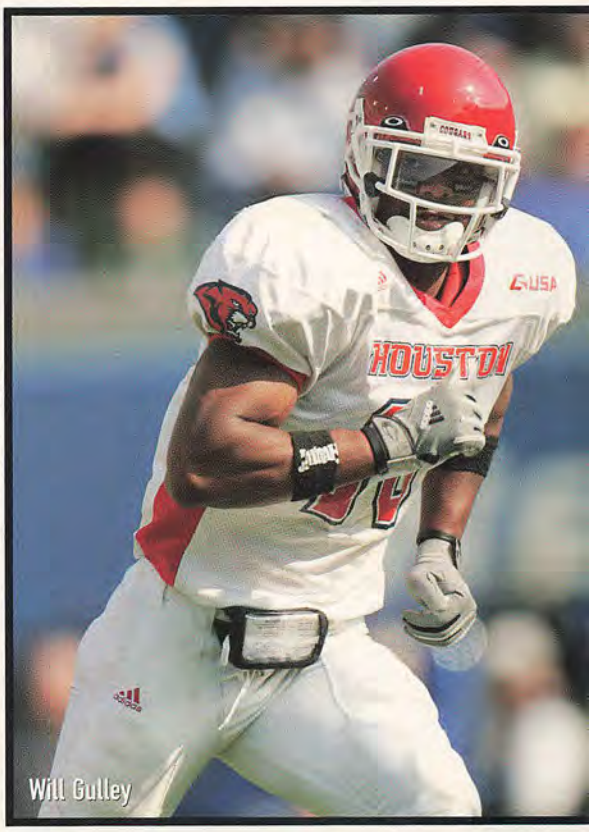
Linebackers This is another area of strength for the Cougars, who return senior Wade Koehl and junior Brendan Pahulu on the outside and junior Trent Allen and sophomore Cody Lubojasky inside. Sophomore Chris Pilot, senior Scott Lee and sophomore James Francis, a Baylor transfer, will be in the mix as well.

Koehl, the star of the crew, is one of the top linebackers in the conference, but Lubojasky really emerged last season, stepping in when senior Lance Everson blew out a knee in spring drills. The force-fed transition to calling the defensive signals should pay off this season. One guy to keep an eye on is freshman Shomari Williams, a 6'2", 235-pound physical specimen from Canada who enrolled in school early in order to participate in spring practice.

Defensive Backs Will Gulley's return will be a huge bonus for the Cougars. The 6'3", 215-pound senior sat out last year recovering from a knee injury he suffered towards the end of the 2004 season. Gulley will step back into the starting free safety job, adding a valuable dose of experience.

Hard-hitting Rocky Schwartz, who had a team-leading 114 tackles, will again start at strong safety, but he sometimes is forced to use his physical gifts to make up for mental mistakes on the field.

Senior Willie Gaston and sophomore Kenneth Fontenette will be on the corners, with Gaston bringing 25 starts to the table. Fontenette, who is moving from safety to cornerback, is another of the young Cougars who blossomed last year.



Will Gulley

Specialists If there's one area where improvement is desperately needed, it's here. The Cougars were next-to-last in the nation in net punting (27.58 yards), missed three field goals of shorter than 30 yards and sent so many kickoffs out of bounds (five) that they eventually resorted to squibs. One problem is that the Cougars are far too specialized — Ben Bell handles extra points and short-range field goals (8-for-12 accuracy), T.J. Lawrence handles long field goals (5-for-10) and Garrett LeFevre does kickoffs.

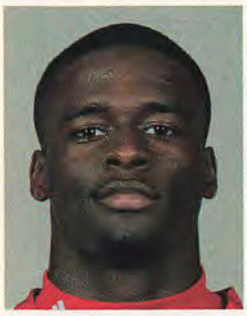
The good news is that there is only one punter, senior Justin Laird, who averaged 39.5 yards per attempt. But the bad news is that his kicks have the hang time of a bowling ball, which leads to healthy returns.

Marshall, who had one punt return for a score last season, inherits the job as Houston's primary return man.

(See Roster, Page 214)

RISING STAR

The one thing the Cougars have been missing the last two seasons is a big, physical, playmaking receiver. They think they've found just that in Arizona transfer Biren Ealy, who has the size (6'3", 195 pounds) and hands to make him an ideal target for Kevin Kolb.



OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Home cooking Houston athletics director Dave Maggard decided to hold the Oklahoma State game at the friendly confines of Robertson Stadium rather than the more expansive Reliant Stadium. "I just felt that we needed to play this game at Robertson," Maggard says. "I want to see what we can do in terms of filling that place (Robertson) up. From the e-mails I've received from fans over the years, many of them say, 'If you have a Big 12 team at Robertson, the place will be overflowing.' Well, let's see if that's true."

Ahead of the game Even though Art Briles has taken his lumps for consecutive 3–8 and 6–6 seasons after his breakout 7–6 first season, he is still ahead of Cougars' legend Bill Yeoman at the same point in their respective careers. After 36 games Briles is 16–20, while Yeoman was 12–23–1.

Marshall plan Wide receiver Vincent Marshall has been rolling up some impressive numbers. The senior enters the season as the nation's leading returnee in receiving yards (2,791) and receptions (192). He also begins the season with a streak of 36 games with at least one catch.

SCOUTING THE COUGARS

Opposing coaches size up Houston: "This was the most athletic team we played all year. They've got great, great speed everywhere and maybe the best quarterback in the league....I'm telling you, it's tough preparing for that offense if you only have a week. It's a scheme you don't see very much, for one thing, and then they have all the speed. When they execute well, you're toast. The times they got beat late was because they didn't hang onto the football. They just beat themselves....Switching defensive coordinators might not mean all that much. They promoted the guy already on staff. He'll add some wrinkles probably, but the terminology probably won't change. So there won't be much of an adjustment....They've got a couple pretty solid safeties, but they played a ton of young guys last year. That'll help them this year if those guys stay healthy."

Charles Small

National Forecast 104 | C-USA West Prediction 6th

Todd Graham realizes that altering attitudes will have as much impact on changing the fortunes of Rice football as the concoction of elaborate schemes on offense and defense.

In taking over a program that has lost 18 of its last 22 games and posted losing records in seven of eight seasons, Graham must build from the ground up. That explains his harping on mental toughness and confidence, and his attempts to get the Owls to become more enthusiastic and intense at every practice station. If the Owls are to depart from their losing ways, the process will begin well in advance of their season opener against Houston. The foundation will be built on a daily basis in the weight room, in film sessions and on the practice fields under the shadows of Rice Stadium.

"They've got to do what we tell them to do right the first time, not the second, third or fourth time," Graham says. "And that's the key to running a disciplined program. That's why we work so hard on the intensity, discipline and structure that we have."

Of course there is football to be learned, too. Graham, formerly the defensive coordinator at defending Conference USA champion Tulsa, brought to Rice an attacking defensive mentality. He lured Paul Randolph, whom he worked with at West Virginia, away from Alabama and named him defensive coordinator. Together, the longtime friends plan to reverse the Owls' downward defensive spiral.

Offensively, Graham scuttled the antiquated option attack in favor of a pass-oriented spread set. That certainly served as a shock to the system of the returning offensive players, many of whom were largely unfamiliar with the concept of passing the ball. "The first day we went out there throwing the ball, and it was bouncing off their helmets," Graham says. "We've come a long way from that."

Graham hopes that he can one day say the same thing about the Owls' old mentality.

Quarterbacks By the close of the spring, Graham refused to commit to the idea that Chase Clement won the starting job outright or the notion that former starter Joel Armstrong would man a receiver position permanently. But it makes sense to hand controls of the offense to Clement, who ran a similar scheme in high school, and keep Armstrong, whose athleticism makes him an elusive target in the open field, in the slot.

Clement has superior accuracy, and he appears far more comfortable orchestrating the spread than he ever did running the option. Graham plans on utilizing the quarterback sneak on occasion, and while Clement leaves something to be desired with his running ability, his cool under fire and prior experience make him a more viable candidate to start than Armstrong or John Shepherd. However, all bets are off should ballyhooed recruit Pierre Beasley, a looming sideline presence throughout spring workouts, grasp the offense quickly.

NUMBERS GAME

8 Rice allowed eight scores, including seven touchdowns, in the final 80 seconds of the first half last season.

Running Backs While there are question marks at quarterback and receiver, tailback is set. After rushing for 902 yards and five touchdowns on 140 carries, Quinton Smith earned second-team all-conference honors last season. More adept at straight-line running than looping around the ends, Smith is a perfect fit for the no-huddle, spread formation. He is strong and powerful, and just fast enough to pose a breakaway threat.

"We've got a tailback, I can guarantee you that," Graham says of Smith. "Matter of fact, I think we've got three. I've been very impressed with all three tailbacks."

Backup Bio Bilaye-Benibo is a burner and was impressive despite limited carries last season. C.J. Ugokwe had a breakout spring, and his bullish, low-to-the-ground running style complements the toughness of Smith and the speed of Bilaye-Benibo.

Receivers With only three proven receivers back in the fold for an offense that frequently calls for four-receiver sets, this is clearly a position of great concern.

Sophomore Jarett Dillard had a breakout freshman season, despite operating in an option offense and serving as the first, second and third receiving option on most downs. His 35 receptions and 524 receiving yards were the most by an Owl in more than a decade, and his fearlessness and penchant for acrobatic catches were impressive.

Tommy Henderson finished second to Dillard in receptions with 22, while senior Mike Falco was second in receiving yards (208) despite missing the first six games of the season following knee surgery.

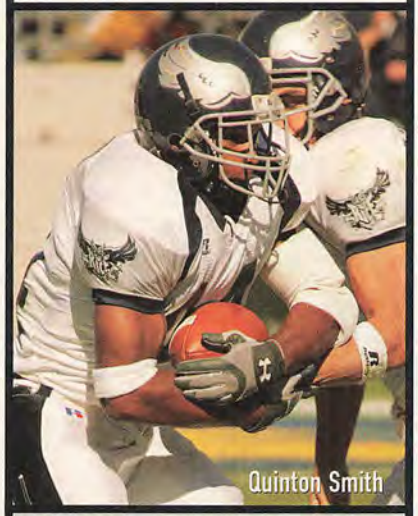
Offensive Linemen Even with the loss of left guard Cory Laxen, who suffered a career-ending shoulder injury during the offseason, the Owls return ample experience up front.

Tackles Robby Heos and Rolf Krueger started all 11 games last season, though Heos emerged from spring as the starter at left guard. Center Austin Wilkinson started 10, missing a start at UAB. David Perkins, who

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE OWLS

It would be unfair to expect drastic improvements under first-year coach Todd Graham. With new schemes on both offense and defense, it remains to be seen if the talent on campus matches what Graham aims to accomplish on the field. The Owls are woefully bereft of depth at receiver, and while the switch to the 3-3-5 on defense should help mask the Owls' lack of size on that side of the ball, it won't solve all of the problems for a unit that ranked last in Conference USA in scoring defense (40.6 ppg) and total defense (454.5 ypg). By introducing a spread passing offense, Graham will maximize the talents of quarterback Chase Clement, receiver Jarett Dillard and tailback Quinton Smith, but the offensive line — perhaps the Owls' greatest strength — will be challenged by the task of learning how to pass block when all were recruited as run-block specialists. With kicker Luke Juist and punter Jared Scruggs, the Owls should be solid on special teams, and the defensive backs seem to have taken to Graham's aggressive style. But the Owls must hope that improvements in attitude can impact the bottom line of winning games.



Quinton Smith

Layne Murdoch

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	Houston	L
S.	9	at UCLA	L
S.	16	#Texas	L
S.	23	at Florida State	L
S.	**30**	**at Army**	*
O.	**7**	**at Tulane**	*
O.	**14**	**UAB**	*
O.	21	at UCF	L
N.	4	at UTEP	L
N.	11	at Tulsa	L
N.	18	East Carolina	L
N.	25	SMU	L
		#Reliant Stadium: Houston	

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

started in place of Wilkinson against the Blazers, returns from an injury-plagued sophomore season and moves to right guard. David Berken, who started all 11 games at right guard, will back up Perkins and gives the Owls valuable experience off the bench.

That experience should help offset the challenge of learning the nuances of pass blocking, a sizable hurdle for a unit recruited to drive block and clear holes in the option attack.

Defensive Linemen

The biggest loss the Owls suffered was at defensive end, where John Syptak started 34 consecutive games and finished his career third in sacks (16) and tackles for a loss (38).

By utilizing three down linemen, the Owls should maximize their depth in the trenches. Courtney Gordon (three), George Chukwu (six), Jonathan Cary (two), William Wood (six) and DeJaun Cooper (four) each made multiple starts last season. Toss in Dietrich Davis, who started at SMU on Nov. 5, and the Owls have a multitude of interchangeable parts. Redshirt freshmen Victor Brooks and Travis Mason will help bolster that depth.

Linebackers If receiver is the position of doubt on the offense, the same can be said of linebacker on defense, where Brian Raines, Vernon James and Marcus Rucker are first-time starters.

Raines (25 tackles as a defensive back) and James (six) played sparingly as freshmen last season while Rucker, a senior, served as a backup tailback. In starting three players who average 6'0" and 201 pounds, Graham hopes their speed makes up for their lack of size. Senior Omeke Alikor (6'0", 215) is another smallish speed linebacker, while reserves Lance Luedeker (6'0", 220) and Jared Gilbert (5'11", 225) possess more girth but less quickness.

Defensive Backs Incorporating the 3-3-5 defensive formation will allow Graham to get his best athletes on the field, and in this case, those superior talents will occupy the secondary.

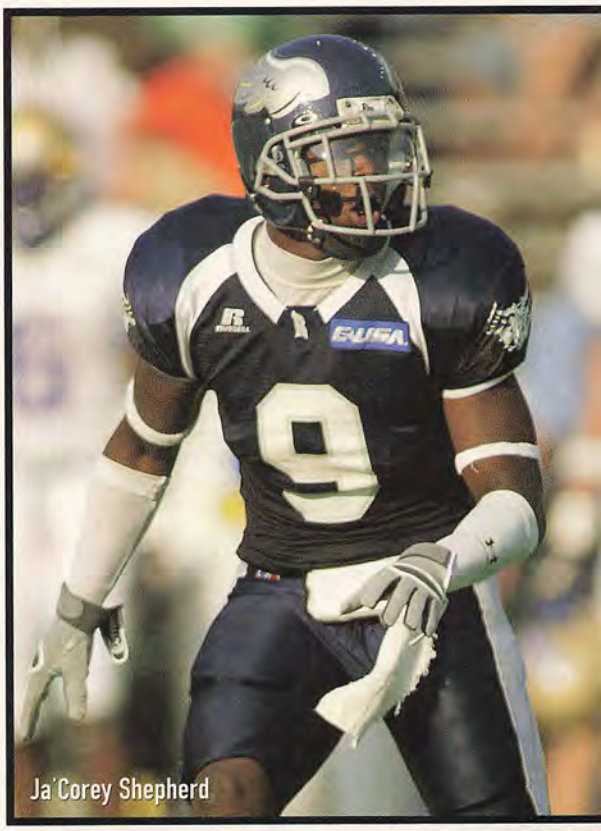
Seniors Chad Price and Andray Downs started all 11 games last season, and they have started 29 and 28 games in their respective careers. Their collective experience at safety should help ease the transition of sophomore strong safety Carl Taylor, a budding talent who started the final three games as a true freshman last season. Taylor appears poised to take his place besides sophomore cornerbacks Ja'Corey Shepherd and Brandon King, who went through their share of highs and lows after being thrown into the starting lineup as redshirt freshmen.

Bencil Smith, another rising sophomore, junior Jon Turner and senior Lance Byrd bring talent, depth and experience to the mix of what is a solid defensive backfield.

Specialists Junior kicker Luke Juist takes over after sharing duties with Brennan Landry for two seasons. Juist made 2-of-3 field goals last year, including a 53-yarder, but his erratic play undermined his powerful leg. This season, he must justify his starting role.

Senior punter Jared Scruggs rebounded from a sub-par sophomore season, averaging 42.8 yards per kick in 2005.

(See Roster, Page 215)



Ja'Corey Shepherd

RISING STAR

Weakside linebacker Brian Raines recorded 25 tackles as a reserve defensive back last season as a true freshman. The Owls' switch to a 3-3-5 defensive formation should allow the speedy 5'11", 193-pound Raines to roam freely in open space and avoid hand-to-hand combat with significantly larger offensive linemen.

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Changes The regime brought schematic changes on offense and defense. But while the 3-3-5 formation on defense is new, the Owls dabbled in that set last season. However, the spread offense is a significant departure from the wishbone attack employed by the previous staff, which left the offense working overtime to absorb everything it could. "These guys, you can't get them out of the offices," offensive coordinator Major Applewhite says. "They're always up in the offices trying to learn."

If you build it In his first three months on the job, coach Todd Graham spearheaded a fundraising effort that produced a $3 million windfall for renovations of dilapidated Rice Stadium. Included in the upgrades was the installation of a $1.1 million FieldTurf surface and a $1.48 million scoreboard stationed above the north concourse of the stadium.

Switch After making 15 starts at quarterback over his first two seasons, junior Joel Armstrong moved to receiver late in the spring to accommodate sophomore Chase Clement, who is a better option at quarterback in the new spread formation.

SCOUTING THE OWLS

Opposing coaches size up Rice: "People might laugh when they read this, but I'm serious: That may have been the best defensive line we lined up against all year. They played their butts off. As a coach you preach to players, 'Play every play like it's 0-0.' That's how Rice played.... They did a nice job for what they had. The academic restrictions there really hurt. Until the president or the trustees give them a few more (academic) exceptions, I don't know what else they can do but maybe, maybe, contend for a bowl every four years. That's a tough road.... I really think what Todd Graham is trying to do there is the right thing. But going from a triple-option offense to a passing game or pro-set is going to take more than a couple of years to pull off. Ken Hatfield was a pretty good football coach, but it's really hard to run that offense in college football today."

Aaron M. Sprecher

National Forecast 85 | C-USA West Prediction 4th

After finishing his best season in four years at SMU, Phil Bennett received several emails from fans thanking him for finally turning around the hapless Mustangs.

He didn't agree with the notes.

"There were a lot of people who said we turned around this program last season by winning five games," Bennett says. "But I don't believe you can say that you turned around a program until you've had a winning season and gone to a bowl game. That's what we need to do this season."

Despite having an untested quarterback and several question marks in the secondary, Bennett will have his best opportunity in five years to have a winning season.

The Mustangs are a surprisingly confident team heading into a new season after closing 2005 with three consecutive wins to finish with their best record in eight years at 5–6.

Bennett has his best defensive front since he arrived on campus, and sophomore running back DeMyron Martin has breathed life into a running game that has been largely nonexistent during the coach's tenure.

Those intangibles could keep Bennett's bunch from being the same old Mustangs.

"We just want to win," defensive end Justin Rogers says. "We won't be satisfied unless we end this season in a bowl game."

Quarterbacks Bennett was tempted to play Justin Willis as a true freshman last season, but instead opted to redshirt him. He's glad he did.

Willis used his redshirt to study the Mustangs' offense, and Bennett believes his new starting quarterback will use those lessons to solidify SMU's quarterback position for the next four years.

"He's not a guy who is going to kill you with his arm," Bennett says. "But he is a special quarterback. He makes everyone around him better."

Bennett's optimism over his new starting quarterback aside, Willis is inexperienced. He is still learning how to read defenses and forced throws at times in practice. He does, however, bring a scrambling dimension to the offense.

Bennett could turn to junior college transfer Corey Slater if his freshman struggles early in the season. Slater arrived on campus in the spring to get a head start in learning the Mustangs' multiple offensive scheme.

Running Backs The only person who wasn't impressed with Martin's dazzling freshman season was, well, Martin.

Martin rushed for a team-leading 854 yards last season to finish with the third highest rushing total by a freshman in school history. But the running back wasn't overly impressed with his numbers because he has higher expectations for himself.

"I expect to rush for 1,000 yards each season," Martin says. "I feel like I have to have a better sophomore season."

That wouldn't be a problem with the SMU coaching staff. Bennett has been desperately seeking a back who could carry the offensive load ever since he arrived at SMU, and Martin appears to be the perfect fit. He can run between the tackles and move the chains as an every-down back. The Mustangs would love to turn the bruising rusher loose.

He'll be spelled by Johnnie Fitzgerald and Cedrick Dorsey. Fitzgerald emerged as Martin's primary backup late last season when he switched to running back from cornerback with two games remaining on the 2005 slate.

NUMBERS GAME

22 The Mustangs haven't been to a bowl game in 22 years. They beat Notre Dame 27–20 in the 1984 Aloha Bowl.

Receivers The Mustangs have so much depth at wide receiver that the coaching staff has moved two former high school standouts — Devin Lowery and Cortley Blackmon — to defensive back over the past 12 months.

The coaching staff simply couldn't get all of the talented receivers on the field.

Wideout Bobby Chase, a 6'4", 205-pound deep threat, is the best of the bunch after leading the Mustangs in receiving for the past two years. He averaged 16 yards per reception last season and caught four touchdown passes.

"He makes your job a whole lot easier as a quarterback," Willis says. "He can go up and get a ball for you."

The quarterbacks also have reliable options in Columbus Givens, Reynaldo Pellerin and Blake Warren. Bennett adds that redshirt freshman Emmanuel Sanders is an emerging talent and could shine in his first season.

Despite having such talent at wide receiver, Bennett wants his tight ends more involved in the passing game. Ryan Kennedy had only 14 receptions last fall.

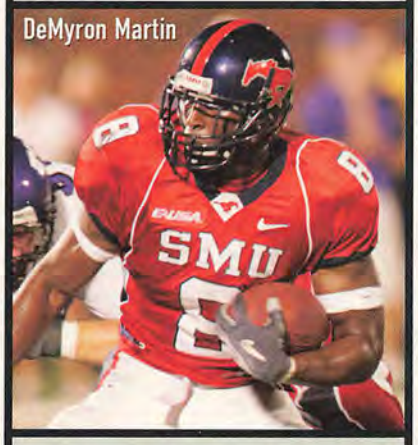
Offensive Linemen Despite losing two starters along the offensive line, Bennett believes he will be able to his rotate offensive linemen. He hasn't had that luxury in past seasons.

"We have more depth than we had since I've been here," Bennett says. "We're hoping to play two different lines and keep some guys fresh."

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MUSTANGS

SMU coach Phil Bennett and the Mustangs showed improvement in his fourth season by winning five games and beating a ranked opponent in TCU, but SMU still isn't good enough to pencil in a sure win over any opponent. The Mustangs are turning to a first-year starter at quarterback in Justin Willis, and the secondary might be the weakest defensive backfield in Conference USA. The kicking game could also be hurting after losing four-year starters at punter and placekicker. Still, Bennett has the opportunity to guide his school to a bowl game for the first time in 22 years. The defensive front is solid, and sophomore running back DeMyron Martin should help Willis ease into the offense. Martin is capable of carrying the football 30 times per game and might be the best rusher the school has had since Eric Dickerson was roaming the backfield. The schedule doesn't hurt either. The Mustangs are only playing two games outside of Texas and scheduled three winnable non-conference games after a season opener at Texas Tech. SMU could realistically enter Conference USA play with a 3–1 record and use the momentum from that start to register the school's second winning season since the death penalty.



DeMyron Martin

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	at Texas Tech	L
S.	9	at North Texas	W
S.	16	Sam Houston State	W
S.	23	Arkansas State	W
S.	**30**	**at Tulane**	*
O.	7	at UTEP	L
O.	**14**	**Marshall**	*
O.	21	at East Carolina	L
O.	31	UAB	W
N.	11	Houston	L
N.	18	Tulsa	L
N.	25	at Rice	W

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

SMU SID

Left tackle Darrin Johnson, center Ben Poynter and right guard Caleb Peveto are the returning starters up front, but both newcomers to the lineup — left guard Tommy Poynter and right tackle Kenard Burley — have played their share of downs.

No one behind them has a ton of experience, but Bennett is confident his reserves can provide a boost.

Defensive Linemen The Mustangs haven't had a pass rusher record double digits in sacks since Luke Johnson had 11.5 sacks in 1999. Bennett believes that will change this season.

The Mustangs are returning four starters along the defensive line, including Rogers, who led the team with seven sacks last year.

"He's going to play in the NFL," Bennett says. "He has a motor that doesn't stop."

Cory Muse, who had 2.5 sacks last season, will rush the passer from the opposite end and could benefit from Rogers drawing attention from offensive linemen.

Defensive tackles Adrian Haywood and Brandon Bonds will plug the middle after combining for 15.5 tackles for a loss last season. Haywood, a former junior college transfer, has surprising speed for a defensive lineman.

Linebackers Tony Hawkins, a 6'1", 205-pound junior, made the switch from strong safety to linebacker in the spring even though he isn't bigger than some of his teammates at wide receiver.

Bennett, however, isn't worried about Hawkins' small frame.

"We just want linebackers who can run," Bennett says. "He can run."

He isn't the only linebacker who can do that. Even though the Mustangs have only one returning starter at linebacker, Bennett believes he has one of his fastest groups at the position.

Junior Wilton McCray, the lone returning starter, has recorded four double-digit tackle performances in his career, and part-time starter Reggie Carrington is expected to boost the Mustangs' pass rush.

Defensive Backs The Mustangs have been inconsistent in the secondary over the past four years and probably won't be any better this season.

Strong safety Joe Sturdivant, who led SMU in tackles last season, is the only returning starter in the secondary. He isn't the team's best cover man or hardest hitter, but he is the secondary's quarterback.

Jonathan Lindley is the Mustangs' only experienced returning cornerback, and junior cornerback Cortley Blackmon is a former receiver who hadn't played defensive back until last season. Their primary backup is also a former receiver in Devin Lowery.

Randall Goode, who played mostly special teams last season, will replace Jamey Harper at free safety.

Specialists After the Mustangs lost two four-year starters in kicker Chris McMurtray and punter Ryan Mentzel, sophomore Thomas Morstead earned starting duties at both positions in the spring. He'll have to hold off freshman Kellis Cunningham in the fall to remain the placekicker.

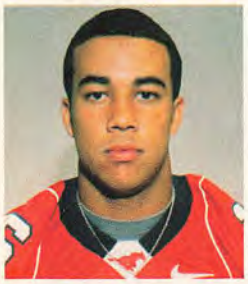
Kickoff return specialist Jessie Henderson and punt returner Blake Warren are two of the top return men in Conference USA.

(See Roster, Page 216)

Justin Rogers

RISING STAR

Quarterback Justin Willis should upgrade the Mustangs' passing game even though he has never taken a college snap. He was nearly perfect in the spring game, completing 16-of-21 passes for 160 yards, and the coaching staff believes he could finally lead SMU to a winning season.



OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Home of the Iron Skillet For the first time in the history of the Iron Skillet Rivalry, the skillet will remain in Dallas for consecutive years. The Mustangs, who defeated TCU last season in the Iron Skillet Rivalry, will keep the trophy this season because the two schools won't play for the first time since 1988. Before this season, SMU had not defeated the Horned Frogs in back-to-back games since 1992-93, but the skillet wasn't introduced to the series until 1993.

Massey's gone Running back Richuel Massey was supposed to be the Mustangs' next great rusher when he arrived on campus, but he never turned into an every-down back. He never even rushed for more than 200 yards in a single season. He was granted a transfer from the program in the spring.

King of extensions Phil Bennett has never had a winning season at SMU, but he has already had his contract extended twice in the past two seasons. After guiding SMU to a 5–6 record last season, Bennett had an additional year added to his contract in January. He is signed through 2009.

SCOUTING THE MUSTANGS

Opposing coaches size up SMU: "They were a really hard team to figure out last season. One week they're beating TCU or Houston or UTEP, and then they really get bombed by Texas A& M and Tulane. But Phil Bennett has done a really good job of trying to bring that program back up. He has to find a quarterback....I guess they're going to go with a new guy (Ryan Willis) at quarterback, so that should be interesting. They just don't do a lot of things to hurt you on defense, and they don't score a lot of points. They're a one-back offense and (DeMyron) Martin is a really big kid who can run you over. He has good vision. They've got some receivers that can hurt you deep. ...The strong safety (Joe Sturdivant) is a big-time player who is really active."

Layne Murdoch

National Forecast 54 | C-USA West Prediction 2nd

Suddenly, there is more than hope. There is expectation. In 2005, Tulsa overcame an 0–2 start — two decisive defeats to Minnesota and at Oklahoma — to qualify for a bowl game for the second time in three years under coach Steve Kragthorpe.

Not only did the Golden Hurricane go to a bowl in '05, but they also moved from the Western Athletic Conference into Conference USA and took the league by storm, winning seven of their last eight games — including the Western Division, the C-USA Championship Game (44–27 at UCF) and the Liberty Bowl (31–24 over Fresno State). It was Tulsa's first conference title in 21 years.

Tulsa went 9–4 last season and is 21–17 in three seasons under Kragthorpe.

"We want to build off what's transpired in the past," Kragthorpe says.

"But the past is what it is. It's history. You can learn a lot from history, but yet we want to blaze a new trail, and part of that is understanding what it takes to get back to that point."

TU returns seven starters from an offense that averaged 33.1 points and 402.2 yards per game, and nine starters from a defense that created 36 turnovers, 30 sacks and had 74 tackles for a loss.

Quarterbacks Junior Paul Smith emerged last season as a passer, a scrambler, a leader and — above all — a winning quarterback. After beating out David Johnson in a close training camp race, Smith threw for 2,847 yards and 20 touchdowns with only six interceptions. He completed 62.4 percent of his passes and surpassed 200 yards 10 times. He only solidified things in the spring, completing 26-of-49 passes for 300 yards, four TDs and three interceptions in three spring scrimmages.

Johnson, who looked strong at times last season filling in for Smith — he completed 68.4 percent of his passes, going 28-of-41 for 236 yards in five games — also had a productive spring, going 23-of-43 for 226 yards with three TDs and no picks in the scrimmages.

"Like I've said all along, we have two good quarterbacks here," Kragthorpe says. "Paul has performed strong this spring, and David is right on his heels."

Running Backs A replacement for physical Uril Parrish must be found early. The most likely candidates are junior Courtney Tennial, a transfer from Oklahoma, senior Brandon Diles, who limped through last season with turf toe and still gained 247 yards, and sophomore Tarrion Adams. Diles is 5'11", 215, and Tennial is 5'9", 214, and both can pound between the tackles. The speedy Adams broke out last season for 574 yards (on a 6.4 average) and eight TDs. In TU's two biggest games — the C-USA title game and the Liberty Bowl — Adams had 186 yards and three TDs and averaged 8.1 yards per carry.

"It's always intense because everyone's out here competing for a job," Adams says. "Nobody's job is final and you're always out here competing and trying to get a spot."

NUMBERS GAME

22 Tulsa's defense intercepted 22 passes in 2005, which ranked third in Division I-A and helped the Golden Hurricane rank fourth in the nation in turnover margin.

Receivers With Cauvey Jackson's move from running back to wideout, there is improved depth and playmaking ability in the receiving corps. Jackson ran for 243 yards and three TDs in 2005, and caught 11 passes for 111 yards. Three players — seniors Idris Moss and Ryan Bugg and redshirt freshman Jesse Meyer — went through their first Division I-A spring and have a long way to go. Moss, who caught 22 passes for 236 yards and two TDs last season, could emerge as the go-to receiver.

One thing is certain: the offense must get more diverse after the departure of All-America tight end Garrett Mills, who caught 87 passes for 1,235 yards and nine TDs last year.

Offensive Linemen Four of last year's five starters return from a line that grew during the season and eventually became reliable. Jeff Perrett, Aaron Danenhauer, Mike Mengers and Jon Hameister-Ries are all back to anchor a unit that last season opened holes for a 4.4-yard per carry rushing average and gave up only 26 sacks.

One position merits a close watch: right guard, where former walk-on Jesse Stoneham made 30 career starts and became a captain. His '05 backup also graduated, and the spot was up for grabs throughout the spring.

Defensive Linemen

Depth on the line finally emerged last season, but huge numbers aren't a necessity because Tulsa plays a 3-3-5 alignment. Replacing inspirational leader Brandon Lohr won't be easy, but sophomore Moton Hopkins is more athletic. Returning starter Chadd Evans, a junior, had a solid spring, but injured senior Robert Latu sat out the spring and is expected to be fine this fall. Returning starter Terrel Nemons, a

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE GOLDEN HURRICANE

As good as Tulsa was last season — TU went 9–4, won the Conference USA Championship Game and topped Fresno State in the Liberty Bowl — the Golden Hurricane could be better. Then again, a lot of things went right in 2005. Luck — injuries and good fortune on the road — is always the unknown. Tulsa returns nine starters on defense, including all three linebackers — a team strength last season that should be improved with Nick Bunting back as a senior and Nelson Coleman and Chris Chamberlain back for their junior years. Throw in the return of two frontline defensive backs, safeties Kedrick Alexander and Steve Craver, to go with '05 All-Conference USA safety Bobby Blackshire, and Tulsa could have one of the league's top defenses. Offensively, four starters on the line are back. The loss of leading rusher Uril Parrish (775 yards) will be offset by the addition of junior Courtney Tennial, eligible after transferring from Oklahoma. Also, sophomore Tarrion Adams and senior Brandon Diles give Tulsa an effective speed-power changeup. All-America tight end Garrett Mills is gone, but if quarterback Paul Smith can develop a trust with an athletic corps of wideouts, the Golden Hurricane will be able to score on anyone.

Paul Smith

Graham: Paul Levy

2006 SCHEDULE

A.	31	Stephen F. Austin	W
S.	9	at BYU	L
S.	16	North Texas	W
S.	**23**	**at Navy**	*
O.	**3**	**Southern Miss**	*
O.	**14**	**at East Carolina**	*
O.	21	at Memphis	W
O.	**27**	**UTEP**	*
N.	**4**	**at Houston**	*
N.	11	Rice	W
N.	18	at SMU	W
N.	25	Tulane	W

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

sophomore, is back at nose guard. In all, nine players were on the Liberty Bowl depth chart, and seven of those return. Also, look for 338-pound sophomore Tommy Daniels to play a big role in the middle.

New coordinator Keith Patterson and new line coach Mark Nelson (the co-coordinator) experimented with some four-man fronts during the spring.

"It'll be an alternate front for us," Patterson says. "We'll base out of the (3-3-5) stack. But (switching to four linemen) comes with improved depth."

Linebackers Senior Nick Bunting is the heart and soul of the defense. Bunting was fourth on the team with 85 tackles last season, including 9.5 for a loss and five quarterback sacks. But it's his leadership that rallies the rest of the defense around him.

"Nick had an excellent spring for us," Kragthorpe says. "He's an excellent leader by not only what he says, but what he does on the football field. There's no question he's someone we can point out as a leader."

Junior Nelson Coleman led TU with 117 tackles last season, including four sacks, with an interception and three fumble recoveries. Junior Chris Chamberlain (88 tackles, 11 for a loss) was injured in the spring, but senior Alain Karatepeyan, who played sparingly in 12 games last season, showed big-play potential.

Defensive Backs Senior Bobby Blackshire is the undisputed leader of the secondary. Blackshire, who moves to free safety after playing last year at bandit — a safety-linebacker hybrid — was second on the team in '05 with 99 tackles and earned first-team All-C-USA honors.

Also back is senior Kedrick Alexander, who led the team with 121 tackles in 2003 and made second-team All-WAC. But he was suspended all of 2004 and was academically ineligible all of 2005. Alexander will compete for the bandit spot with senior Steve Craver.

Tulsa's third safety, the spur, lines up on the strong side and is manned by returning starter Anthony Germany, a junior who led the Golden Hurricane last year with 13.5 tackles for loss and eight passes defended. Senior Nick Graham has the skills to be a lockdown cornerback, but there was inconsistency at the other corner during the spring, and the job remains open.

"A good thing is the athleticism of those players," Kragthorpe says. "When we're playing teams like we're going to play in Conference USA, playing with a lot of five- and six-defensive back sets and the depth we have will be able to help us."

Specialists Junior Jarod Tracy inherits the placekicking duties from reliable Brad DeVault, whose 280 career points are one off the school record. Tracy had a solid spring. Senior punter Chris Kindred (37.9 yards per punt) is back but must get better.

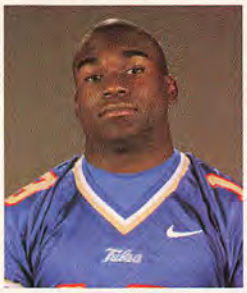
Moss, who shared time last season, was the primary punt returner in the spring. The loss of 2004 All-America kick returner Ashlan Davis (five TDs in '04, one in '05) will be felt, and the job remains wide open.

(See Roster, Page 217)

Nelson Coleman

RISING STAR

Tulsa is solid at running back, but the addition of Oklahoma transfer Courtney Tennial — the 2002 Oklahoma High School player of the year, and the state's single-season rushing leader (3,426 yards as a senior) — will help. He's 5'9" but weighs 214 pounds and combines superior cutting ability with bruising power.



OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

New Leadership With the loss of defensive coordinator Todd Graham (now head coach at Rice), Tulsa head coach Steve Kragthorpe had to rebuild his defensive staff. Keith Patterson was promoted to defensive coordinator. Mark Nelson is the new defensive line coach, co-defensive coordinator and special teams guru. Darrin Eliot (linebackers) and Derek Jones (cornerbacks) are also new to the staff.

Building boom Tulsa is in the midst of an $8 million addition to the north end zone called the Case Athletic Complex. Among other things, the new facility will house coaches' offices and training facilities and is on schedule for completion in summer 2007.

Big bucks Tulsa modified coach Steve Kragthorpe's contract this season, bringing his salary up to what is believed to be in the neighborhood of $400,000 annually. That moves him from the bottom one-third of Conference USA into the upper half of the league's coaches. Kragthorpe signed a one-year contract extension in 2004 and prior to 2005 agreed to a six-year deal that runs through the 2010-11 school year.

SCOUTING THE GOLDEN HURRICANE

Opposing coaches size up Tulsa: "On offense they did the best job of anybody in the league for what they had. Week in, week out, they had a great plan. They used (tight end) Garrett Mills to the hilt. Their quarterback did a great of running exactly what they wanted him to run and getting the ball to guys that could get yards and get points. It's that simple....As long as Steve Kragthorpe is the coach there, and I don't know how much longer they're going to be able to keep him, you know Tulsa is going to score some points....Steve brought a lot of things to Tulsa that he did in the NFL — a lot of screens, a lot of things to keep you off balance on defense. His running backs are really sneaky good. Faster and quicker than you think. They had a big offense line that got after you big-time."

Paul Levy

National Forecast 44 | C-USA West Prediction 1st

On the surface, it would appear back-to-back 8–4 seasons would be just what the doctor ordered for UTEP coach Mike Price's re-entry into college football life. And while 2004 was a breakout year for the Miners and earned Price National Coach of the Year consideration, the '05 campaign ended as a disappointment. UTEP, 8–1 going into the 10th game of the season, dropped its final three games by a combined score of 120–63. The team limped to the end of the season and finished with a poor showing against Toledo in the GMAC Bowl.

The battle cry heading into the 2006 season? "I want to get back to basics," Price says. "That's a little unusual when you have this many (29) seniors. But I didn't like the way we finished (last) season. We need to learn how to finish strong. I think there was a little complacency. As hard as you guard against that, it's still something that happens to people."

Quarterbacks Senior quarterback Jordan Palmer, who appeared to be coming into his own midway through the season, inexplicably regressed down the stretch. He finished with 19 interceptions, which tied for the most in the nation. Eight of those picks were in the final three games, and he tossed four in a loss at SMU. To be fair, he played much of the season with a separated non-throwing shoulder. And injuries took away his playmakers, forcing Palmer to take issues into his own hands. Also, a lack of depth at running back enabled defenses to pound on him.

Until the UAB game, Palmer was often brilliant. He rebounded from two early interceptions to defeat Tulsa in what was, at that point, the biggest game of the year. He ended the season as the best single-season passer in school history, setting records for yards (3,503), touchdown passes (29) and passing attempts (434). And he is UTEP's all-time total offense leader with 7,532 yards. But to achieve his potential and help this team win, he must cut his interceptions in half. At least.

The depth at quarterback is good. Highly touted redshirt freshman Brandis Dew is ready to play. After arriving at UTEP weighing a hefty 290 pounds, Dew has slimmed down to 265 and has shown a rocket arm in limited play. And junior Lorne Sam, a transfer from Florida State, is expected to add a new wrinkle to the UTEP offense: running ability. The athletic Sam, who played receiver for the Seminoles, could enter the game on situational downs.

Running Backs The depth may be something of a mystery, but the Miners flaunt star potential in Marcus Thomas at the No. 1 spot. The former *Parade* All-American shined in '05, leading the Miners with 791 rushing yards on 149 carries (5.3 average) and five touchdowns. This year, he is 10 pounds heavier, and his 40-yard dash time has improved from 4.5 to 4.3. He could have a special junior season.

Who will play behind Thomas is problematic. Junior Johan Givens and sophomore Jon Lane vied for the spot in the spring, but they may have been keeping the seat warm for incoming freshmen Donald Buckram and Jason Williams.

NUMBERS GAME

4 Marcus Thomas rushed for 100 yards or more four times last season, becoming the first player in school history to compile that many 100-yard outings.

Receivers The Miners return a second team all-conference selection in speedy senior Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr. He will be the centerpiece of a receiving corps that is talented but injury-prone and largely unproven with the departures of Chris Francies and Aaron Givens. Higgins has 108 career catches for 1,899 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Senior Chris Marrow (87 career catches for 976 yards) has often been injured and missed the spring while recovering from knee surgery. Highly touted redshirt freshman Dashan Miller never reported to spring camp and was dismissed from the team, leaving a big hole to fill. However, UTEP returns solid junior Joe West, who had 15 of his 19 catches in the final seven games, and senior Daniel Robinson, who redshirted last season and enjoyed a fine spring.

Offensive Linemen A problem area a year ago, the offensive line shouldered some of the blame for Palmer's 19 picks. This year, it is young, deep and big for the first time in years.

Returning starters include center Robby Felix, right guard James Riley and right tackle Tyler Ribitzki. Felix earned honorable mention freshman All-America honors. Ribitzki started the last six games of the season last year. Riley, a junior, is coming off knee surgery but appeared to be having no problems during spring drills. Junior Oniel Cousins and senior Andy Smith will be responsible for the left side, made vacant by the departures of line staples Josh House and Jose Garcia.

"We're showing an aggressiveness, which I

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MINERS

The Miners' offense must limit its turnovers in 2006. Quarterback Jordan Palmer was the main culprit, tossing 19 interceptions. If he corrects his mistakes, he could direct the Miners to a special season and improve his own NFL possibilities. "As it turns out, most of those (interceptions last year) were correctable," Palmer says. "It wasn't just dropped balls or bad throws. It was mostly bad reads and things I can correct, which is good." Even with a reduction in turnovers, the Miners have to overcome considerable losses. Honorable mention All-C-USA running back Tyler Ebell is gone, as is the steadiest receiver on the team, Chris Francies. On defense, UTEP will be without standout linebacker Thomas Howard. UTEP must contend with a myriad of injuries suffered over the '05 season and spring practice, including receiver Johnnie Lee Higgins (hamstring), tight ends Jamar Hunt (hamstring) and Jake Sears (hamstring), and linebacker Troy Collavo (shoulder). All are expected to be ready by the Aug. 31 kickoff at San Diego State, but coach Mike Price and company are hoping the injury bug, so prevalent in the 2005 season, doesn't return in '06. The depth is better, and the team is now heavy with "Price players." It should make for an interesting third year in El Paso for Price.

Jordan Palmer

2006 SCHEDULE

A.	**31**	**at San Diego State**	*
S.	9	Texas Tech	L
S.	23	at New Mexico	W
S.	30	New Mexico State	W
O.	7	SMU	W
O.	14	Tulane	W
O.	**21**	**at Houston**	*
O.	**27**	**at Tulsa**	*
N.	4	Rice	W
N.	10	at UAB	W
N.	18	at Marshall	W
N.	25	Memphis	W

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Peter Brouillet

think we lacked last year as a whole," Felix says. "We weren't a real aggressive offensive line, and we're trying to change that this year."

Defensive Linemen Healed and re-energized, this unit is primed to be one of the best in Conference USA, even with the departure of Chris Mineo, who racked up 30.5 tackles in his 42 games with the Miners. Nine of 11 players on the GMAC Bowl team are back, including Alex Obomese (left end), Joe Ward (right end), Zach West (right tackle) and Justin Hanel (left tackle. All four players are seniors.

West, at 6'5", 295 pounds, is hoping to return to his sophomore form, when he recorded 12 tackles for a loss. And Obomese came into his own in '05, recording 56 tackles. He sat out spring with a knee injury but is expected to return in the fall. Injuries depleted the unit last season.

Linebackers The linebacking corps returns almost all of its strength, especially at the starting spots. Weak-side linebacker Jeremy Jones recorded a team-high 130 tackles last season, and senior Troy Collavo, the middle linebacker, was second with 112 tackles. Collavo sat out the spring while recovering from shoulder surgery, but Jones was back with a vengeance — 10 pounds heavier and thicker than ever.

The only spot up for grabs is the strong-side position left vacant by Thomas Howard. Vying for the job are seniors Jason McQuay and Josh Chamois and junior Emeri Spence. Also, freshmen Alan Kirkland, Landon Goodwell and Brian Wilkins all impressed during the spring.

Defensive Backs The secondary hopes to rebound after a difficult 2005 season. Safety looks solid, with senior Joe Fleskoski (strong safety) and junior Quintin Demps (free safety) returning. They tied for the team lead with three interceptions last year. Backing up Demps will be talented newcomer Braxton Amy, who appeared to be the total package during spring drills. His hitting and tackling are superb, as are his instincts. Amy suffered a minor rotator cuff injury during the spring but is expected to be ready to go by August.

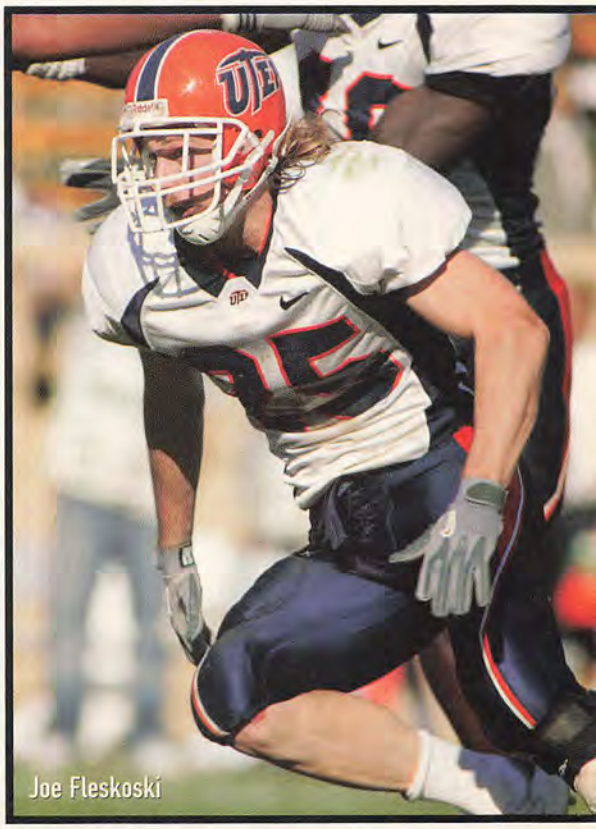
Senior Nate Draughon and junior Josh Ferguson are expected to start at right and left cornerback, respectively. However, seniors Tim McCullouch, Phillip Moss and Bryant Tisdale and sophomore Fred Patton pushed both during spring. All are expected to see significant playing time in the Miners' revamped zone scheme.

"I was hard on them last year, and I need to lighten up," cornerbacks coach Jim Clark says. "Corners are on an island out there, and people are going to make plays on you. (I'm going to) coach them the positive way and tell them what they're doing wrong but also tell them what they're doing right."

Specialists Senior kicker Reagan Schneider is expected to be among the best in the country this season. He ranks first in school history in extra points (103), second in scoring for a kicker (205) and fifth in field goals (34). He has missed only one of 104 extra point attempts.

Higgins, Demps and Josh Ferguson make formidable kickoff return candidates. Higgins is also expected to handle the punt returns.

(See Roster, Page 218)


Joe Fleskoski

RISING STAR

Braxton Amy might not start this season, but the 6'0", 195-pound redshirt freshman safety has a bright future in El Paso. The coaches loved his play during the spring, and he figures to see plenty of action despite heading into the season as Quintin Demps' backup.

SCOUTING THE MINERS

Opposing coaches size up UTEP: "They were right there again last year, which shows you that Mike Price really knows how to put a program together. He did it at Washington State, and I'm sure he could have done it at Alabama, too. Unfortunately, we've got to deal with him instead....Jordan Palmer is a really good quarterback, and they threw a lot more at him last season. He's a really big kid with a good arm, but I thought he forced some throws last season and didn't always make great decisions. But when you're throwing the football as much as they are, those things are going to happen. ...The running back (Marcus Thomas) was a highly recruited kid and kind of came into his own last year. He's not real flashy, but he's got good size and runs hard. (Receiver) Johnny Lee Higgins is a guy that can really go vertical on you, and he's really good on kick returns."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

He's done Highly touted freshman wide receiver Dashan Miller, expected to add depth and talent to the receiving corps, did not show up to UTEP spring training drills and was dismissed in March by head coach Mike Price. The 6'0", 200-pound native of Corona, Calif., was expected to be the class of the freshmen receivers, along with Dustin Bell. However, he missed the first week of practice while coaches tried to contact him via cell phone. He never answered. "He's done," Price says.

Welcome back Former UTEP defensive back and special teams contributor Steve Douglas will return to the team this fall after serving two years in Boston on his LDS Church mission. Douglas, 23, will have two years of eligibility remaining and will likely play outside linebacker. "We are honoring the agreement that (former head coach) Gary Nord made," Price says. "That's the kind of program we want to be, to honor those commitments. He's a very good student, and a good young man, and I'm sure he'll help us." Douglas played for the Miners during the 2002 and '03 seasons. He recorded five tackles as a special teamer in '02.

Peter Brouillet

2006 HOUSTON ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
16 Brown, Jordan	QB	5'11"	185	Sr.	Houston, TX
15 Joseph, Blake	QB	6'1"	195	Fr.	Bryan, TX
4 Kolb, Kevin	QB	6'3"	225	Sr.	Stephenville, TX
7 Walraven, Clint	QB	6'1"	175	Fr.	Alvarado, TX
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
31 Allcorn, Scott	IB	6'0"	240	So.	Clear Lake, TX
27 Battle, Jackie	IB	6'3"	250	Sr.	Humble, TX
39 Brewster, Justin	FB	5'8"	175	So.	Longview, TX
36 Hagemeier, Garret	IB	6'0"	218	Fr.	Lake Jackson, TX
42 Mitchell, Chris	FB	6'0"	215	Fr.	Houston, TX
26 Otis, Roy	FB	6'0"	225	Sr.	Gardena, CA
23 Owens, Marcell	IB	5'10"	180	So.	Linden, TX
3 Pope, Roshawn	IB	5'11"	195	Sr.	Galveston, TX
21 Taylor, Harold	IB	6'0"	200	Jr.	San Diego, CA
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
22 Alridge, Anthony	WR	5'9"	170	Jr.	Denton, TX
2 Avery, Donnie	WR	5'11"	185	Jr.	Houston, TX
45 Bell, Josh	TE	6'7"	250	Fr.	Hitchcock, TX
88 Bittick, Ed	WR	5'10"	175	Jr.	Houston, TX
85 Boehm, Brian	TE	6'5"	245	So.	Victoria, TX
86 Ealy, Biren	WR	6'3"	195	Sr.	Houston, TX
83 Emejulu, Obi	WR	6'5"	190	Sr.	Sugar Land, TX
32 Fletcher, Micah	WR	6'5"	175	Fr.	Houston, TX
18 Gilbert, Chris	WR	5'9"	175	Fr.	Dallas, TX
25 Gleason, Brennan	WR	6'0"	163	So.	Allen, TX
87 Hafner, Mark	TE	6'3"	220	So.	Waller, TX
80 Hannah, Rodney	TE	6'8"	245	Sr.	Roseville, CA
1 Harvey, Jeron	WR	6'5"	210	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL
30 Jordan, Charles	WR	6'2"	190	Fr.	Katy, TX
89 Laird, Barry	TE	6'5"	215	Fr.	Baytown, TX
82 LaMark, Chris	WR	5'8"	175	Sr.	Baytown, TX
84 Lee, Fabian	WR	6'0"	185	Fr.	Richmond, TX
17 Marshall, Vincent	WR	5'8"	175	Sr.	Ennis, TX
9 McDaniel, Perry	WR	5'9"	175	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
24 Monroe, Tim	WR	6'1"	175	Fr.	Mount Vernon, TX
19 Vollmer, Sebastian	TE/OL	6'8"	260	So.	Kaarst, Germany
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
77 Akeroyd, Jeff	G	6'3"	300	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
66 Alfred, Byron	G	6'2"	290	Jr.	Port Arthur, TX
64 Bloesch, Michael	G	6'2"	305	So.	Spring, TX
69 Butler, Jerrod	G	6'2"	330	Fr.	Allen, TX
73 Dickinson, Dustin	T	6'3"	300	Jr.	Springtown, TX
67 Doty, Sterling	C	6'1"	295	Sr.	Stephenville, TX
54 Ebner, Jake	C	6'2"	290	So.	Friendswood, TX
60 Elekwachi, Jarvis	OL	6'0"	303	Fr.	Grand Prairie, TX
79 Hart, Matt	T	6'6"	290	Fr.	Huffman, TX
68 Kimmey, Mark	OL	6'5"	300	So.	Van Vleck, TX
74 Rogers, SirVincent	T	6'3"	305	Jr.	Jasper, TX
13 Wagner, Jason	T	6'5"	300	Jr.	Keller, TX
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
91 Agson, Isaiah	DT	6'3"	300	So.	Houston, TX
94 Barbandi, Mamoon	DL	6'2"	245	Fr.	Houston, TX
96 Barela, Ricky	DT	5'10"	285	Sr.	Rosenberg, TX
57 Barnett, Carl	DL	6'3"	270	Fr.	Dickinson, TX
92 Hartford, Billy	DE	6'2"	255	So.	Houston, TX
53 Hunt, Phillip	DE	6'1"	250	So.	Fort Worth, TX
90 Kirkpatrick, L.C.	DE	6'2"	280	Sr.	Houston, TX
99 Love, Marquay	DT	6'0"	320	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
56 Pree, Cody	DE	6'3"	300	So.	Hooks, TX
98 Roulette, Anthony	DE	6'3"	260	Fr.	Garland, TX
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
41 Allen, Trent	ILB	6'2"	244	Jr.	Longview, TX
59 Atkins, Kenneth	OLB	6'2"	225	Jr.	Houston, TX
40 Cavness, C.J.	ILB	6'0"	205	Fr.	Santa Fe, TX
43 Francis, James	OLB	6'1"	225	So.	LaMarque, TX
46 Jackson, Nate	ILB	6'1"	215	Fr.	Houston, TX
1 Koehl, Wade	OLB	6'2"	230	Sr.	Midland, TX
23 Kolb, Stephen	ILB	5'10"	240	Fr.	Springtown, TX
47 Lee, Scott	OLB	6'4"	245	Sr.	Stephenville, TX
34 Lubojasky, Cody	ILB	6'3"	230	So.	Sugar Land, TX
3 Pahulu, Brendan	OLB	6'3"	225	Jr.	Euless, TX
7 Pilot, Chris	OLB	6'1"	215	So.	Lufkin, TX
4 Rideau, Rodney	ILB	6'1"	225	So.	Port Arthur, TX
49 Smith, Quinton	OLB	6'4"	245	Fr.	Houston, TX
51 Williams, Shomari	ILB	6'2"	235	Fr.	Brampton, ON
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
15 Bean, Broderic	S	6'1"	190	Fr.	Kirbyville, TX
21 Brinkley, Brandon	S	6'0"	170	Fr.	Bay City, TX
28 Fontenette, Kenneth	CB	6'0"	175	So.	Pflugerville, TX
10 Gaston, Willie	CB	5'11"	185	Sr.	Houston, TX
9 Gonzales, Joseph	S	5'10"	200	Jr.	Gonzales, TX
18 Gulley, Will	S	6'3"	215	Sr.	Newton, TX
33 James, Stephen	S	5'10"	205	Jr.	Houston, TX
5 Miller, Ernest	S	6'0"	185	So.	Taylor, TX
20 Schwartz, Rocky	S	5'11"	195	Jr.	Bradenton, FL
12 Simon, Harry	CB	5'8"	170	So.	Atlanta, GA
30 Traweek, Ryan	S	5'11"	185	So.	East Bernard, TX
25 Williams, DeMario	DB	5'8"	170	Fr.	Dallas, TX
8 Williams, Quinte	CB	5'11"	170	So.	Houston, TX
6 Yancy, Kellan	CB	6'0"	175	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
14 Bell, Ben	K/P	5'11"	160	So.	Stephenville, TX
81 Juist, Norby	LS	6'4"	240	So.	Houston, TX
2 Laird, Justin	K/P	6'2"	200	Sr.	Baytown, TX
22 Lawrence, T.J.	K/P	6'1"	180	Jr.	Mt. Pleasant, TX
37 LeFevre, Garrett	K/P	6'0"	230	So.	Spring, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	1	Jeron Harvey	Jr.
WR	**2**	**Donnie Avery**	**Jr.**
SL	**17**	**Vincent Marshall**	**Sr.**
LT	**74**	**SirVincent Rogers**	**Jr.**
LG	77	Jeff Akeroyd	Jr.
C	**67**	**Sterling Doty**	**Sr.**
RG	66	Byron Alfred	Jr.
RT	**73**	**Dustin Dickinson**	**Jr.**
TE	87	Mark Hafner	So.
QB	**4**	**Kevin Kolb**	**Sr.**
FB	42	Chris Mitchell	Fr.
RB	27	Jackie Battle	Sr.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	86	Biren Ealy	Sr.
WR	**22**	**Anthony Alridge**	**Jr.**
SL	9	Perry McDaniel	Jr.
LT	13	Jason Wagner	Jr.
LG	69	Jerrod Butler	Fr.
C	54	Jake Ebner	So.
RG	64	Michael Bloesch	So.
RT	79	Matt Hart	Fr.
TE	80	Rodney Hannah	Sr.
QB	15	Blake Joseph	Fr.
FB	26	Roy Otis	Sr.
RB	3	Roshawn Pope	Sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (9)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**56**	**Cody Pree**	**So.**
NT	**99**	**Marquay Love**	**Sr.**
DE	53	Phillip Hunt	So.
OLB	**1**	**Wade Koehl**	**Sr.**
WLB	**34**	**Cody Lubojasky**	**So.**
MLB	**41**	**Trent Allen**	**Jr.**
OLB	**3**	**Brendan Pahulu**	**Jr.**
CB	**10**	**Willie Gaston**	**Sr.**
CB	**28**	**Kenneth Fontenette**	**So.**
SS	**20**	**Rocky Schwartz**	**Jr.**
FS	18	Will Gulley	Sr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	90	L.C. Kirkpatrick	Sr.
NT	90	L.C. Kirkpatrick	Sr.
DE	98	Anthony Roulette	Fr.
OLB	47	Scott Lee	Sr.
WLB	4	Rodney Rideau	So.
MLB	51	Shomari Williams	Fr.
OLB	7	Chris Pilot	So.
CB	8	Quinte Williams	So.
CB	6	Kellan Yancy	Jr.
SS	9	Joseph Gonzales	Jr.
FS	5	Ernest Miller	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	14	Ben Bell	So.
P	2	Justin Laird	Sr.
KR	17	Vincent Marshall	Sr.
PR	17	Vincent Marshall	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Art Briles
Record at School: 16–20 (3 years)
Career Record: 16–20 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Art Briles
Defensive Coordinator: Alan Weddell
Houston, Texas
Robertson Stadium (32,000)

2006 SIGNEES

Raymond Alake	DT	6'4"	250	Arlington, TX
Randall Antoine	RB	5'10"	190	New Iberia, LA
Josh Bell	TE	6'7"	250	Hitchcock, TX
Carson Blackmon	DB	5'11"	170	Tatum, TX
Tommy Bryant	RB	5'8"	175	Dallas, TX
LJ Castile	QB	6'3"	200	LaMarque, TX
Biren Ealy	WR	6'3"	194	Houston, TX
James Francis	LB	6'1"	225	LaMarque, TX
Roddy Green	ATH	6'1"	190	Mart, TX
Cameron Hackney	TE	6'3"	240	Jacksonville, TX
Rodney Hannah	TE	6'8"	245	Roseville, CA
Stephen James	S	5'10"	205	Houston, TX
Case Keenum	QB	6'1"	183	Abilene, TX
Andre Kohn	WR	5'10"	185	Jacksonville, FL
Josh Lee	S	6'1"	185	Houston, TX
Jared Lindsey	DL	6'3"	280	Alto, TX
Marquis Lowe	RB	5'10"	170	Hitchcock, TX
Britton Maxwell	LB	6'0"	205	Brownwood, TX
Antonio May	LB	6'4"	220	Ashdown, AR
Kendall Mouton	DT	6'1"	310	Arlington, TX
Matt Parker	OL	6'2"	265	Stephenville, TX
Xavier Richard	DE	6'2"	250	Houston, TX
JT Rudd	LB	6'2"	220	Cuero, TX
Wesley Scourten	TE	6'6"	210	Richardson, TX
Jordan Shoemaker	OL	6'4"	275	Midlothian, TX
Antonio Staton	S	6'0"	196	Texarkana, AR
Isaiah Thompson	DL	6'4"	305	Tatum, TX
Ladarius White	WR	5'11"	180	Orange, TX
Shomari Williams	LB	6'2"	235	Brampton, ON
Teric Williams	CB	5'10"	180	Omaha, TX

There were two areas of need that Art Briles wanted to hit — restocking the running backs and linemen to fit the 3-4 defense. Addressing the former, the Cougars bagged Marquis Lowe, Tommy Bryant and Randall Antoine. Even though they're all on the small side (none bigger than 5'10", 190), all three fit Briles' offense because they're fast and catch the ball as well. Addressing the latter, the Cougars signed five prospects, including Kendall Mouton, a 6'1", 310-pound junior college transfer. The best prospect in the bunch is probably LJ Castile, an athletic quarterback who is likely the Cougs' starter of the future.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 6–6 (4–4 C-USA)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S. 1	Oregon	L	24–38	19,981
S. 10	Sam Houston State	W	31–10	15,649
S. 16	at UTEP	L (2ot)	41–44	45,558
O. 1	at Tulsa	W	30–23	15,580
O. 8	at Tulane	W	35–14	15,454
O. 15	Memphis	L	20–35	12,800
O. 22	at Mississippi State	W	28–16	40,957
N. 5	at UCF	L	29–31	32,635
N. 13	Southern Miss	W	27–24	15,119
N. 19	SMU	L	24–29	14,650
N. 26	Rice	W	35–18	12,125
D. 23	#Kansas	L	13–42	33,505
	#Fort Worth Bowl			

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Kevin Kolb	**420**	**254**	**3,258**	**19**	**15**
Kendal Briles	1	1	10	0	0

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Ryan Gilbert	170	1,037	6.1	9
Jackie Battle	**106**	**408**	**3.8**	**5**

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Vincent Marshall	**71**	**939**	**13.2**	**6**
Kendal Briles	45	369	8.2	1
Donnie Avery	**44**	**688**	**15.6**	**5**

Kicking: Ben Bell, 8-12 FGs, 37-39 XPs, 61 points
Tackles: Rocky Schwartz, 114; Brendan Pahulu, 94
Sacks: Wade Koehl, 4, Cody Pree, 4

Returning Players in Bold

2006 RICE ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
16 Clement, Chase	QB	6'1"	180	So.	Alamo Heights, TX
17 Shepherd, John	QB	6'1"	180	Fr.	El Dorado, AR
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
10 Bilaye-Benibo, Bio	RB	6'0"	195	Jr.	Corpus Christi, TX
24 Douglas, Chris	RB	5'9"	175	Fr.	Fort Worth, TX
32 Hopson, Trey	RB	5'9"	225	Fr.	Pascagoula, MS
27 Knox, Marcus	RB	5'10"	190	Fr.	Humble, TX
44 Smith, Quinton	RB	5'11"	195	Sr.	Cedar Park, TX
45 Ugokwe, C.J.	RB	5'10"	200	Fr.	Plano, TX
33 Wall, John	RB	5'9"	200	Jr.	Dallas, TX
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
13 Armstrong, Joel	WR	5'11"	185	Jr.	Longview, TX
1 Anderson Jr., Gary	WR	5'11"	170	Jr.	Little Rock, AR
81 Dillard, Jarett	WR	5'11"	160	So.	San Antonio, TX
22 Falco, Mike	WR	5'9"	210	Sr.	Scottsdale, AZ
18 Goodson, Jeramy	WR	5'8"	160	Fr.	Houston, TX
7 Henderson, Tommy	WR/QB	5'11"	175	So.	Wichita Falls, TX
37 Hufsey, Dustin	WR	5'10"	185	Fr.	Weatherford, TX
88 Moss, Will	TE	6'4"	235	So.	Bonham, TX
19 Sweeney, Ahmad	WR	5'10"	160	Fr.	Missouri City, TX
82 Welch, John	WR	6'2"	183	Fr.	Gautier, MS
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
61 Austin, Scott	OL	6'3"	260	Jr.	Tyler, TX
68 Barber, Lute	OL	6'7"	280	Jr.	Lubbock, TX
70 Barcenas, Jose	OL	6'3"	285	Fr.	Galena Park, TX
75 Beck, Logan	OL	6'4"	255	Fr.	Houston, TX
63 Berken, David	OL	6'3"	260	So.	Lake Arthur, LA
57 Hamilton, Robby	OL	6'2"	260	So.	Sugar Land, TX
72 Heos, Robby	OL	6'3"	295	Jr.	Pearland, TX
50 Krueger, Rolf	OL	6'3"	290	Sr.	Sealy, TX
60 Miller, James	OL	6'4"	310	So.	Richmond, TX
54 Nimmons, Scott	OL	6'2"	250	Fr.	Houston, TX
52 Perkins, David	OL	6'3"	275	Jr.	Seabrook, TX
74 Ptaszek, Chris	OL	6'3"	295	So.	Houston, TX
56 Talbert, Chance	OL	6'6"	250	Fr.	Hurst, TX
67 Thompson, Preston	OL	6'6"	260	Fr.	El Paso, TX
79 Wiebusch, Charlie	OL	6'2"	310	Fr.	McAllen, TX
73 Wilkinson, Austin	OL	6'2"	265	So.	The Woodlands, TX
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
70 Brooks, Victor	DL	6'5"	250	Fr.	Portland, TX
58 Cary, Jonathan	DL	6'3"	285	Jr.	Palestine, TX
99 Chukwu, George	DL	6'1"	305	Jr.	Houston, TX
92 Cooper, DeJaun	DL	6'2"	280	Sr.	Sugar Land, TX
95 Davis, Dietrich	DL	6'4"	225	So.	Brackettville, TX
98 Gordon, Courtney	DL	6'3"	255	Sr.	Gladewater, TX
55 Mason, Travis	DL	6'3"	255	Fr.	Oklahoma City, OK
91 Mohr, Todd	DL	6'2"	255	So.	Houston, TX
97 Wood, William	DL	6'3"	290	Sr.	Garrison, TX
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
5 Alikor, Omeke	LB	6'0"	215	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
46 Craig, Ryan	LB	5'11"	190	Fr.	Houston, TX
40 Gilbert, Jared	LB	5'11"	225	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA
36 James, Vernon	LB	6'1"	210	So.	Houston, TX
28 Luedeker, Lance	LB	6'0"	220	Jr.	Waco, TX
11 Marchbanks, Casey	LB	6'0"	180	Fr.	Austin, TX
31 Raines, Brian	LB	5'11"	193	So.	Missouri City, TX
4 Rucker, Marcus	LB	6'0"	200	Sr.	Magnolia, AR
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
14 Abt, Justin	DB	6'0"	205	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
39 Bingham, Derek	DB	6'2"	220	Jr.	Orange, TX
8 Byrd, Lance	DB	5'11"	185	Sr.	Madisonville, TX
2 Downs, Andray	DB	5'9"	185	Sr.	Garland, TX
26 Heard, Bubba	DB	5'11"	185	Jr.	Sinton, TX
15 King, Brandon	DB	5'9"	170	So.	Moss Point, MS
42 Patel, Dash	DB	5'11"	180	Fr.	Spring, TX
21 Price, Chad	DB	6'0"	195	Sr.	Bay City, TX
9 Shepherd, Ja'Corey	DB	5'10"	175	So.	Lufkin, TX
20 Smith, Bencil	DB	5'11"	176	So.	Houston, TX
29 Taylor, Carl	DB	6'2"	185	So.	Dallas, TX
18 Thomas, Tristan	DB	5'11"	185	Fr.	Fayetteville, AR
23 Turner, Jon	DB	5'9"	180	Jr.	Plano, TX
38 White, Aubrey	DB	6'1"	190	Jr.	Thorndale, TX
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
64 Clardy, Drew	LS	6'6"	270	Sr.	Moss Point, MS
41 Juist, Luke	K/P	6'1"	190	Jr.	Houston, TX
85 Scruggs, Jared	P	6'3"	190	Sr.	Hutto, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (8)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**81**	**Jarett Dillard**	**So.**
WR	1	Gary Anderson	Jr.
IR	**13**	**Joel Armstrong**	**Jr.**
LT	68	Lute Barber	Jr.
LG	**72**	**Robby Heos**	**Jr.**
C	**73**	**Austin Wilkinson**	**So.**
RG	52	David Perkins	Jr.
RT	**50**	**Rolf Krueger**	**Sr.**
IR	**7**	**Tommy Henderson**	**So.**
QB	16	Chase Clement	So.
TB	**44**	**Quinton Smith**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	37	Dustin Hufsey	Fr.
WR	82	John Welch	Fr.
IR	22	Mike Falco	Sr.
LT	67	Preston Thompson	Fr.
LG	60	James Miller	So.
C	52	David Perkins	Jr.
RG	**63**	**David Berken**	**So.**
RT	56	Chance Talbert	Fr.
IR	18	Jeremy Goodson	Fr.
QB	17	John Shepherd	Fr.
TB	10	Bio Bilaye-Benibo	Jr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	58	Jonathan Cary	Jr.
NG	**99**	**George Chukwu**	**Jr.**
DE	98	Courtney Gordon	Sr.
SLB	4	Marcus Rucker	Sr.
MLB	36	Vernon James	So.
WLB	31	Brian Raines	So.
CB	**9**	**Ja'Corey Shepherd**	**So.**
CB	**15**	**Brandon King**	**So.**
SS	29	Carl Taylor	So.
BS	**21**	**Chad Price**	**Sr.**
FS	**2**	**Andray Downs**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	70	Victor Brooks	Fr.
NG	**97**	**William Wood**	**Sr.**
DE	95	Dietrich Davis	So.
SLB	40	Jared Gilbert	Jr.
MLB	28	Lance Luedeker	Jr.
WLB	11	Casey Marchbanks	Fr.
CB	8	Lance Byrd	Sr.
CB	23	Jon Turner	Jr.
SS	14	Justin Abt	Jr.
BS	20	Bencil Smith	So.
FS	42	Dash Patel	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	41	Luke Juist	Jr.
P	85	Jared Scruggs	Sr.
KR	2	Andray Downs	Sr.
PR	15	Brandon King	So.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Todd Graham
Record at School: First Season
Career Record: First Season
Offensive Coordinator: Major Applewhite
Defensive Coordinator: Paul Randolph
Houston, Texas
Rice Stadium (70,000)

2006 SIGNEES

Joseph Agnew	DB	6'0"	190	Southlake, TX
Max Anyiam	DB	6'1"	195	Garland, TX
Pierre Beasley	QB	6'4"	212	Houston, TX
Robert Calhoun	RB/LB	6'1"	212	Duncanville, TX
Toren Dixon	WR	6'3"	200	Baton Rouge, LA
Evan Fentriss	WR	6'0"	185	Southlake, TX
Willie Garley	LB	5'11"	175	Victoria, TX
Terrance Garmon	CB	6'1"	205	Tyler, TX
Dale Lloyd	CB	5'10"	185	Houston, TX
Brandon Long	DS	6'1"	218	Deer Park, TX
Drew Mehringer	QB	6'1"	200	Mansfield, TX
Kasey Nobles	TE	6'2"	210	Lake Butler, FL
Andrew Novak	WR	6'3"	200	Ennis, TX
Patrick Randolph	CB	5'11"	160	Tuscaloosa, AL
Andrew Sendejo	DB	6'1"	195	Canyon Lake, TX
Will Shoppa	LB	6'2"	210	Fort Worth, TX
Corbin Smiter	WR	6'2"	200	Southlake, TX
Taylor Wardlow	TE	6'6"	210	Grapevine, TX

Having run some variation of an option offense for a dozen seasons under Ken Hatfield, the Owls were woefully lacking at receiver when Todd Graham took over on Jan. 1 and immediately installed a spread formation. Graham made strides in filling the void by signing four wideouts — Toren Dixon, Evan Fentriss, Andrew Novak and Corbin Smiter. Add tight ends Kasey Nobles and Taylor Wardlow to the mix and Graham has the foundation on which he can build his passing attack. The switch in defenses to the 3-3-5 affirmed the need for inking both cornerbacks (Terrance Garmon, Dale Lloyd and Patrick Randolph) and safety/outside linebacker hybrids (Max Anyiam, Joseph Agnew, Willie Garley and Andrew Sendejo). Quarterback Pierre Beasley may one day represent a change in the Owls' football fortunes, fitting because he, Agnew, Fentriss, Novak, Sendejo and Smiter arrive from some of the more successful prep programs in Texas.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 1–10 (1–7 C-USA)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S. 10	at UCLA	L	21–63	44,808
S. 17	at Texas	L	10–51	83,055
O. 1	at UAB	L	26–45	10,580
O. 8	at East Carolina	L	28–41	33,213
O. 15	Tulsa	L	21–41	10,893
O. 22	Navy	L	9–41	12,714
O. 29	UTEP	L	31–38	9,326
N. 5	at SMU	L	7–27	15,236
N. 12	Tulane	W	42–34	9,162
N. 19	UCF	L	28–31	8,267
N. 26	at Houston	L	18–35	12,125

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Chase Clement	**124**	**53**	**582**	**5**	**6**
Joel Armstrong	**85**	**36**	**554**	**4**	**6**
Rushing	**Att.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Quinton Smith	**140**	**902**	**6.4**	**5**	
Joel Armstrong	**149**	**555**	**3.7**	**6**	
John Wall	**109**	**538**	**4.9**	**7**	
Andrew Cates	48	192	4.0	1	
Tommy Henderson	**29**	**128**	**4.4**	**1**	
Receiving	**Rec.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Jarett Dillard	**35**	**524**	**15.0**	**5**	
Tommy Henderson	**22**	**189**	**8.6**	**0**	
Nick Aranda	9	101	11.2	0	

Kicking: Brennan Landry, 4-7 FGs, 28-29 XPs, 40 points
Tackles: John Syptak, 72; Adam Herrin, 70
Sacks: John Syptak, 4
Interceptions: **Ja'Corey Shepherd, 2**

Returning Players in Bold

2006 SMU ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
12 Hasson, Duke	QB	6'4"	190	Sr.	Austin, TX
14 Johnson, Eric	QB	6'1"	210	Fr.	Plano, TX
7 Phillips, Chris	QB	6'3"	230	Jr.	Seagoville, TX
16 Willis, Justin	QB	6'1"	197	Fr.	Denton, TX
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
23 Dorsey, Cedrick	RB	5'11"	200	Jr.	New Boston, TX
43 Fitzgerald, Johnnie	RB	6'2"	212	Sr.	Red Oak, TX
9 Henderson, Jessie	RB	5'9"	175	So.	Paris, TX
20 Mapps, James	RB	5'9"	175	Fr.	Royce City, TX
8 Martin, DeMyron	RB	6'2"	215	So.	Allen, TX
1 Turner, Fred	RB	5'10"	185	Jr.	Arlington, TX
32 Walker, Dee	RB	5'10"	190	Fr.	Snyder, TX
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
49 Barnhart, Jack	TE	6'2"	230	So.	Corpus Christi, TX
30 Beckner, Jim	WR	5'10"	180	Fr.	Nashville, TN
83 Brock, Jeff	TE	6'5"	235	Fr.	Spearman, TX
82 Chase, Bobby	WR	6'4"	205	Sr.	Irving, TX
86 Chase, Vincent	TE	6'5"	255	So.	Irving, TX
18 Cleveland, Jay'Mond	WR	5'11"	185	Sr.	Baytown, TX
26 Dent, Josh	WR	6'0"	190	So.	McKinney, TX
12 Ferguson, Joseph	WR	6'2"	205	Sr.	Overland Park, KS
4 Givens, Columbus	WR	6'1"	185	So.	Killeen, TX
41 Hill, J.B.	TE	6'2"	225	Fr.	Grapevine, TX
89 Kennedy, Ryan	TE	6'5"	265	Sr.	Beeville, TX
45 McKinney, Andrew	TE	6'4"	250	So.	Decatur, TX
85 Pellerin, Reynaldo	WR	6'3"	190	Sr.	Houston, TX
22 Pritchard, Rob	WR	6'2"	195	So.	Tulsa, OK
69 Ritter, Paulius	TE	6'7"	260	So.	Vilnius, Lithuania
15 Rowan, Jason	TE	6'4"	220	So.	Oak Ridge, TN
17 Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	6'1"	170	Fr.	Bellville, TX
84 Sledge, Zack	WR	5'11"	190	Jr.	Midland, TX
81 Walker, Mario	TE	6'2"	220	Fr.	Marshall, TX
2 Warren, Blake	WR	5'7"	180	Sr.	Arp, TX
Zimmerman, Zach	WR	6'2"	170	Fr.	Flower Mound, TX
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
70 Allison, David	T	6'5"	296	Fr.	Humble, TX
76 Burley, Kenard	T	6'5"	305	Jr.	Rosser, TX
55 DeLay, Lucky	OL	6'4"	270	Jr.	Irving, TX
51 Enright, Mitch	G	6'2"	280	Fr.	Southlake, TX
75 Hickman, Josh	OL	6'4"	285	Fr.	Rowlett, TX
58 Johnson, Darrin	T	6'6"	295	Sr.	Dallas, TX
63 Lankford, Brad	T	6'4"	280	Fr.	Waco, TX
74 Lobo, Sean	G	6'3"	300	So.	Arlington, TX
77 Morton, Dustin	OL	6'4"	290	Sr.	Conroe, TX
72 Nigh, Ross	OL	6'5"	265	Fr.	Cuero, TX
50 Peveto, Caleb	G	6'4"	295	Jr.	Highland Village, TX
66 Poynter, Ben	C	6'4"	285	Jr.	Arlington, TX
67 Poynter, Tommy	G	6'3"	285	So.	Irving, TX
61 Ramsey, Matt	OL	6'1"	235	So.	Dallas, TX
64 Smith, Chase	OL	6'4"	280	Fr.	Flower Mound, TX
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
92 Berry, Charlie	DT	6'3"	280	Sr.	Dallas, TX
99 Bey, Jamar	DE	6'5"	235	Sr.	Katy, TX
56 Bonds, Brandon	DT	6'1"	300	Sr.	Cooper, TX
68 Denman, Randy	DT	6'2"	285	Sr.	Dayton, TX
98 Dizer, Adrian	DE	6'5"	220	Fr.	Clarksville, TX
91 Griffin, Kyle	DE	6'4"	225	So.	Colleyville, TX
94 Handy, Patrick	DT	6'2"	250	So.	Spring, TX
60 Haywood, Adrian	DT	6'3"	280	Sr.	Mesquite, TX
79 Klachian, Jack	DT	5'11"	240	Fr.	Dallas, TX
11 Muse, Cory	DE	6'3"	240	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
82 Newsom, Chris	DE	6'3"	230	Fr.	Houston, TX
93 Parham, Chris	DT	6'2"	280	Fr.	Fort Worth, TX
97 Pryor, Dominic	DT	6'5"	275	Jr.	Red Oak, TX
40 Rogers, Justin	DE	6'4"	250	Sr.	Greenville, TX
90 Therien, Troy	DE	6'4"	245	Sr.	Meadow Vista, CA
48 Walter, Brent	DE	6'2"	215	Fr.	Saratoga, CA
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
44 Bonilla, Will	LB	5'11"	200	So.	Corpus Christi, TX
53 Carrington, Reggie	LB	6'2"	235	Jr.	Tomball, TX
52 Fleps, Pete	LB	6'2"	220	Fr.	Southlake, TX
38 Hawkins, Tony	LB	6'1"	205	Jr.	Longview, TX
32 Hiemenz, Paul	LB	6'2"	225	So.	Wichita, KS
6 Hurst, Damon	LB	5'11"	215	Jr.	Waco, TX
46 Johnson, Brett	LB	6'1"	220	So.	Houston, TX
48 Johnston, Kyle	LB	5'11"	205	So.	Galveston, TX
42 Jones, Derek	LB	6'1"	218	Fr.	Rockwall, TX
5 McCray, Wilton	LB	6'0"	205	Jr.	LaMarque, TX
57 Osborne, James-Albert	LB	6'2"	230	Fr.	Cedar Hill, TX
31 Sawyer, Trent	LB	6'0"	215	So.	Duluth, GA
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
24 Blackmon, Cortley	CB	5'10"	185	Jr.	Bay City, TX
Courtney, Chase	DB	5'10"	180	Fr.	Alexandria, LA
10 Goode, Randall	FS	5'11"	190	Sr.	Hallettsville, TX
7 Haynes, David	CB	5'9"	190	So.	McGregor, TX
28 Hudman, Bryce	CB	6'2"	200	Fr.	Spring, TX
25 Johnson, L.J.	FS	5'9"	175	So.	Atlanta, TX
21 Lindley, Jonathan	DB	6'0"	185	Jr.	Sulphur Springs, TX
3 Lowery, Devin	CB	5'11"	175	Jr.	Grand Prairie, TX
34 Makinde, Victor	CB	6'1"	190	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ
23 McKay, Connor	DB	6'1"	185	Fr.	Leawood, KS
39 Piro, Blake	DB	5'11"	185	Jr.	Plano, TX
36 Settle, Emerson	DB	5'11"	190	Fr.	Arlington, TX
33 Sloan, Benson	SS	6'1"	190	So.	Nashville, TN
29 Sturdivant, Joe	SS	6'2"	210	Sr.	Lilburn, GA
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
64 Boyd, Trey	LS	6'2"	208	So.	Houston, TX
11 Galloway, Andrew	P	6'4"	215	So.	Manhattan, KS
18 Harris, Brayden	P/K	5'11"	180	So.	Austin, TX
12 Morstead, Thomas	P/K	6'4"	210	So.	Pearland, TX
47 Taylor, Jackson	LS	6'2"	245	So.	Houston, TX
10 Wolcott, Ryan	PK	5'9"	170	Jr.	Dallas, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**82**	**Bobby Chase**	**Sr.**
WR	2	Blake Warren	Sr.
WR	**85**	**Reynaldo Pellerin**	**Sr.**
LT	**58**	**Darrin Johnson**	**Sr.**
LG	67	Tommy Poynter	So.
C	**66**	**Ben Poynter**	**Jr.**
RG	**50**	**Caleb Peveto**	**Jr.**
RT	76	Kenard Burley	Jr.
TE	**89**	**Ryan Kennedy**	**Sr.**
QB	16	Justin Willis	Fr.
RB	**8**	**DeMyron Martin**	**So.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	18	Jay'Mond Cleveland	Sr.
WR	17	Emmanuel Sanders	Fr.
WR	4	Columbus Givens	So.
LT	63	Brad Lankford	Fr.
LG	74	Sean Lobo	Fr.
C	62	Joe Holmes	Jr.
RG	51	Mitch Enright	Fr.
RT	70	David Allison	Fr.
TE	86	Vincent Chase	So.
QB	12	Corey Slater	So.
RB	43	Johnnie Fitzgerald	Sr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**11**	**Cory Muse**	**Jr.**
DT	**60**	**Adrian Haywood**	**Sr.**
DT	**56**	**Brandon Bonds**	**Sr.**
DE	**40**	**Justin Rogers**	**Sr.**
SLB	38	Tony Hawkins	Jr.
MLB	53	Reggie Carrington	Jr.
WLB	**5**	**Wilton McCray**	**Jr.**
CB	24	Cortley Blackmon	Jr.
CB	21	Jonathan Lindley	Jr.
SS	**29**	**Joe Sturdivant**	**Sr.**
FS	10	Randall Goode	Sr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	94	Patrick Handy	So.
DT	92	Charlie Berry	Sr.
DT	68	Randy Denman	Sr.
DE	90	Troy Therien	Sr.
SLB	32	Paul Hiemenz	So.
MLB	6	Damon Hurst	Jr.
WLB	44	Will Bonilla	So.
CB	7	David Haynes	So.
CB	3	Devin Lowery	Jr.
SS	33	Benson Sloan	So.
FS	28	Bryce Hudman	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	12	Thomas Morstead	So.
P	12	Thomas Morstead	So.
KR	9	Jessie Henderson	So.
PR	2	Blake Warren	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Phil Bennett
Record at School: 11–35 (4 years)
Career Record: 11–35 (4 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Rusty Burns
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Gush
Dallas, Texas
Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)

2006 SIGNEES

Taylor Bon	LB	6'4"	210	Kingwood, TX
Phillip Burley	WR	6'5"	210	Rosser, TX
Tim Crosby	DB	5'11"	170	Garland, TX
Kellis Cunningham	K	5'11"	180	Carrolton, TX
Kyle DeGroat	DL	6'0"	270	Dallas, TX
Mickey Dollens	DL	6'3"	255	Bartlesville, OK
Lee Gonzales	OL	6'5"	305	Hutto, TX
Joe Holmes	C	6'2"	300	Corsicana, TX
Morgan Hudnall	WR	5'9"	162	Dallas, TX
Jordan Johnson	DE	6'3"	240	Carrolton, TX
Tyler Jones	DB	6'1"	195	Emory, TX
Bryan McCann	WR/DB	6'0"	175	Oklahoma City, OK
A'Darius Medford	WR/DB	5'10"	170	Garland, TX
Zach Rhodes	QB	6'2"	205	New Braunfels, TX
Corey Slater	QB	6'2"	220	Seattle, WA
Anthony Sowe	LB	6'2"	195	Denton, TX
Patrick Strodtman	LB	6'0"	225	Flower Mound, TX
Zac Thomas	DE	6'5"	265	Stephenville, TX

SMU coach Phil Bennett sorely needs a winning season to turn around his recruiting efforts. The Mustangs' coach signed his lowest-rated class in five seasons according to many recruiting services and didn't steal a marquee player from one of the state's larger programs. The school's two top-rated recruits, Phillip Burley and Bryan McCann, are both wide receivers, which isn't a thin position at SMU. Both might end up learning how to play defensive back, although McCann does have some experience there. The Mustangs did find immediate help in the junior college ranks by signing quarterback Corey Slater and offensive lineman Joe Holmes. Slater could sneak into the starting lineup if freshman Justin Willis struggles early in the season. But Bennett's most important signee might have been kicker Kellis Cunningham. The Mustangs lost their starting kicker from last season, and Cunningham was regarded as one of the top prep kickers in Texas.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 5–6 (4–4 C-USA)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S. 3	Baylor	L	23–28	29,538
S. 10	TCU	W	21–10	22,416
S. 17	at Texas A&M	L	8–66	75,128
S. 24	Tulane	L	10–31	15,681
O. 1	at Marshall	L	(ot) 13–16	25,218
O. 8	at UAB	W	28–27	23,255
O. 15	East Carolina	L	17–24	11,715
O. 22	at Tulsa	L	13–20	22,502
N. 5	Rice	W	27– 7	15,235
N. 19	at Houston	W	29–24	14,650
N. 26	UTEP	W	40–27	17,194

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Jerad Romo	282	155	1,781	9	7
Tony Eckert	42	15	169	1	1
Rushing	**Att.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
DeMyron Martin	**185**	**854**	**4.6**	**7**	
Cedrick Dorsey	**59**	**212**	**3.6**	**0**	
Jerad Romo	103	174	1.7	3	
Receiving	**Rec.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Bobby Chase	**39**	**625**	**16.0**	**4**	
Reynaldo Pellerin	**30**	**346**	**11.5**	**2**	

Kicking: Chris McMurtray, 18-22 FGs, 21-22 XPs, 75 points
Tackles: **Joe Sturdivant, 112;** D.D. Lee, 79
Sacks: **Justin Rogers, 7**
Interceptions: Jamey Harper, 4, Alvin Nnabuife, 4

Returning Players in Bold

2006 TULSA ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
4 Fadal, Kyle	QB	6'1"	189	Fr.	Sunset Valley, TX
5 Johnson, David	QB	6'2"	217	So.	Portland, OR
12 Smith, Paul	QB	6'2"	193	Jr.	Owasso, OK
8 Westling, Drew	QB	6'3"	215	Fr.	Mission Viejo, CA
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
25 Adams, Tarrion	RB	6'1"	204	So.	Moore, OK
34 Diles, Brandon	RB	5'11"	215	Sr.	Abilene, TX
22 Johnson, Aaron	RB	5'9"	190	So.	Tulsa, OK
20 Tennial, Courtney	RB	5'9"	214	Jr.	Glenpool, OK
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
37 Adair, Devin	TE	6'0"	234	Jr.	Torrance, CA
83 Bugg, Ryan	WR	6'0"	195	Sr.	Atascadero, CA
82 Collums, Jacob	TE	6'4"	236	Fr.	Enid, OK
36 Curtis, Ted	TE	6'1"	242	Jr.	Moore, OK
11 Foster, Roderick	WR	5'9"	168	So.	Houston, TX
35 Frank, Jacob	TE	6'1"	233	So.	Houston, TX
85 Grooms, Kyle	WR	6'3"	205	Jr.	Englewood, CO
4 Heinz, Corey	WR	5'11"	161	Fr.	Lone Tree, CO
28 Jackson, Cauvey	WR	5'10"	188	Jr.	Louisville, KY
9 Johnson, Donnie	WR	5'9"	208	Sr.	Dallas, TX
84 Meyer, Jesse	WR	6'3"	198	Fr.	Jenks, OK
80 Moss, Idris	WR	5'10"	180	Sr.	Alameda, OK
41 Nelson, Kate	TE	6'2"	226	Fr.	Waco, TX
88 Ramsey, Charles	TE	6'4"	254	Jr.	Owasso, OK
89 Roupoli, Aaron	TE	6'2"	244	Sr.	Huntington Beach, CA
39 Sullivan, Mike	TE	6'3"	238	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, CO
87 Wike, Travis	TE	6'4"	279	Fr.	Wichita, KS
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
60 Bryant, Jeff	G	6'3"	316	Sr.	Edmond, OK
56 Danenhauer, Aaron	C	6'5"	302	Sr.	Bentonville, AR
55 Frederick, Blair	T	6'5"	265	Jr.	Houston, TX
67 Hameister-Ries, Jon	G	6'6"	308	Sr.	Edmonton, AB
74 Lane, Kevin	T	6'5"	333	Fr.	Calgary, AB
66 Mengers, Mike	T	6'4"	280	Sr.	Mustang, OK
50 Morsey, Justin	C	6'2"	282	So.	Sapulpa, OK
59 Perrett, Jeff	T	6'7"	329	Sr.	Taber, AB
76 Puckett, Curt	G	6'3"	305	Fr.	Coweta, OK
62 Thomas, Dennis	OL	6'2"	310	Fr.	Broken Arrow, OK
70 Thomas, Rodrick	G	6'4"	347	So.	Oklahoma City, OK
65 Whaley, Jody	T	6'3"	302	Fr.	Comanche, OK
77 Whitlow, Wade	G	6'4"	310	Jr.	Clute, TX
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
96 Boyd, Walter	DE	6'2"	317	Jr.	Shawnee, OK
92 Daniels, Tommy	NG	6'2"	338	So.	Ennis, TX
50 Detwiler, Alex	DE	6'1"	217	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
95 Evans, Chadd	DE	6'4"	260	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
39 Floyd, Popsie	DE	6'1"	250	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
54 Godfrey, Cedric	DE	6'1"	243	Fr.	Cedar Hill, TX
93 Hopkins, Moton	DE	6'3"	275	So.	Converse, TX
91 Jones, Brandon	NG	6'2"	297	Jr.	Duncanville, TX
91 Latu, Robert	DE	6'2"	271	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
99 Nemons, Terrel	NG	6'4"	345	So.	Cedar Hill, TX
33 Spotwood, Kinny	DE	6'1"	232	Jr.	Abilene, TX
59 Taylor, Skyler	NG	6'0"	269	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
40 Antle, Tanner	LB	6'4"	190	Fr.	Foyil, OK
41 Bunting, Nick	LB	6'1"	230	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
32 Chamberlain, Chris	LB	6'2"	225	Jr.	Bethany, OK
8 Clinkscale, George	LB	6'0"	241	So.	Cedar Hill, TX
55 Coleman, Nelson	LB	6'2"	235	Jr.	Dallas, TX
44 Karatepeyan, Alain	LB	6'1"	250	Jr.	Chatsworth, CA
35 Madison, Cody	LB	6'3"	239	Jr.	Chickasha, OK
46 McMurrian, Corey	LB	6'1"	212	So.	El Dorado, AR
48 Thomas, Kody	LB	6'2"	205	Fr.	Broken Arrow, OK
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
2 Alexander, Kedrick	DB	6'2"	210	Sr.	Plano, TX
4 Blackshire, Bobby	DB	6'3"	205	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
19 Burris, Josh	DB	5'10"	186	So.	Garland, TX
6 Craver, Steve	DB	6'1"	212	Jr.	Hurst, TX
7 Duncan, Randy	DB	6'2"	188	So.	Mesquite, TX
11 Germany, Anthony	DB	6'1"	211	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
22 Graham, Nick	DB	5'11"	191	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK
37 Lockett, James	DB	5'11"	192	Fr.	Arlington, TX
13 McGowan, Julian	DB	6'0"	165	Sr.	Carson, MS
8 Page, Ty	DB	6'2"	220	So.	Dallas, TX
38 Penelton, Jonathan	DB	6'0"	214	So.	Dallas, TX
10 Roberts, Roy	DB	5'11"	205	So.	Ardmore, OK
16 Tatmon, Marchon	DB	6'1"	207	Sr.	Oakland, CA
21 Thomas, Terrance	DB	5-'0"	175	Jr.	Gordon, AL
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
70 Bridge, Alexander	P	5'10"	205	Fr.	Los Alamos, NM
51 Carlton, Tyler	P	5'11"	178	So.	Sapulpa, OK
58 Guidry, Morgan	LS	6'3"	238	Sr.	Rusk, TX
71 Jurado, Paul	P	6'1"	195	So.	Chino, CA
5 Kindred, Chris	P	5'11"	205	Sr.	Spring, TX
25 Schultz, Matt	K	6'0"	154	So.	Sand Springs, OK
12 Tracy, Jarod	K	6'0"	165	Jr.	Aledo, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	**80**	**Idris Moss**	**Sr.**
WR	83	Ryan Bugg	Sr.
TE	**88**	**Charles Ramsey**	**Jr.**
LT	**66**	**Mike Mengers**	**Sr.**
LG	**67**	**Jon Hameister-Ries**	**Sr.**
C	**56**	**Aaron Danenhauer**	**Sr.**
RG	70	Rodrick Thomas	So.
RT	**59**	**Jeff Perrett**	**Sr.**
TE	36	Ted Curtis	Jr.
QB	**12**	**Paul Smith**	**Jr.**
RB	34	Brandon Diles	Sr.

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	9	Donnie Johnson	Sr.
WR	84	Jesse Meyer	Fr.
TE	89	Aaron Roupoli	Sr.
LT	65	Jody Whaley	Fr.
LG	76	Curt Puckett	Fr.
C	50	Justin Morsey	So.
RG	77	Wade Whitlow	Jr.
RT	74	Kevin Lane	Fr.
TE	37	Devin Adair	Jr.
QB	5	David Johnson	So.
RB	25	Tarrion Adams	So.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (9)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**95**	**Chadd Evans**	**Jr.**
NG	**99**	**Terrel Nemons**	**So.**
DE	93	Moton Hopkins	So.
SLB	**41**	**Nick Bunting**	**Sr.**
MLB	**55**	**Nelson Coleman**	**Jr.**
WLB	**32**	**Chris Chamberlain**	**Jr.**
CB	**22**	**Nick Graham**	**Sr.**
CB	10	Roy Roberts	So.
BAN	2	Kedrick Alexander	Sr.
SS	**11**	**Anthony Germany**	**Jr.**
FS	**4**	**Bobby Blackshire**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**91**	**Robert Latu**	**Sr.**
NG	90	Brandon Jones	Jr.
DE	33	Kinny Spotwood	Jr.
SLB	44	Alain Karatepeyan	Jr.
MLB	35	Cody Madison	Jr.
WLB	8	George Clinkscale	So.
CB	16	Marchon Tatmon	Sr.
CB	13	Julian McGowan	Sr.
BAN	6	Steve Craver	Jr.
SS	8	Ty Page	So.
FS	7	Randy Duncan	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	12	Jarod Tracy	Jr.
P	5	Chris Kindred	Sr.
KR	80	Idris Moss	Sr.
PR	80	Idris Moss	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Steve Kragthorpe
Record at School: 21–17 (3 years)
Career Record: 21–17 (3 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Stubbs
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Mark Nelson, Keith Patterson
Tulsa, Okla. • Skelly Stadium (40,385)

2006 SIGNEES

Devin Adair	TE	6'0"	225	Torrance, CA
Tanner Antle	LB	6'4"	190	Foyil, OK
Jon Bell	DT	6'1"	255	Shreveport, LA
Mike Bryan	LB	6'1"	215	Coweta, OK
Logan Cawyer	TE	6'4"	234	Commerce, OK
Dominique Crawford	CB	5'9"	170	Giddings, TX
Charles Davis	CB	5'9"	155	Fort Worth, TX
Ronnie DeWitt	OL	6'5"	260	Lake Austin, TX
Donald Gobert	FS	6'3"	180	Crockett, TX
Anthony Egbuniwe	DE	6'4"	220	Greenville, SC
Clark Harrell	QB	6'2"	190	Ennis, TX
Corey Kizer	WR	6'2"	210	Memphis, TN
Daniel Morrell	WR	6'1"	186	Blanchard, OK
Justin Morsey	OL	6'2"	274	Sapulpa, OK
Stephen Polk	WR	6'1"	195	Dallas, TX
Tyler Scarbrough	DE	6'3"	240	Stillwater, OK
Kenny Scott	DT	6'1"	324	Anderson, SC
Kenny Sims	CB	5'11"	189	Florissant, MO
Dion Toliver	WR	5'10"	160	Riverside, CA
Brandon Washington	OL	6'3"	330	Cedar Hill, TX
Jamad Williams	CB	5'9"	193	Midwest City, OK
Alonzo Wilson	WR	6'0"	165	Boynton Beach, FL

Tulsa's 4–8 record in 2004 left an impression on many 2006 recruits. One major service ranked TU's '06 class 83rd (seventh in C-USA), and another ranked it 91st (11th in the league). While last season's success should ring louder for next year's class, coach Steve Kragthorpe got the kind of players he wanted. "I really like the chemistry of this recruiting class," Kragthorpe says. "Much like our season in 2005, we have a group of guys that are not only committed to being good football players, but good people. This class has a great feel." The sleeper could be quarterback Clark Harrell of Ennis, Texas.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 9–4 (6–2 C-USA)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S. 1	Minnesota	L	10–41	33,410
S. 10	at Oklahoma	L	15–31	83,877
S. 17	at North Texas	W	54– 2	23,112
S. 24	Memphis	W	(ot) 37–31	20,645
O. 1	Houston	L	23–30	15,580
O. 8	at Southern Miss	W	34–17	28,375
O. 15	at Rice	W	41–21	10,893
O. 22	SMU	W	20–13	22,502
N. 5	at UTEP	L	38–41	49,160
N. 12	East Carolina	W	45–13	21,995
N. 19	at Tulane	W	38–14	10,306
D. 3	%at UCF	W	44–27	51,978
D. 31	#Fresno State	W	31–24	54,894

%C-USA Championship
#Liberty Bowl

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Paul Smith	**364**	**227**	**2,847**	**20**	**6**
David Johnson	**41**	**28**	**236**	**1**	**1**
Rushing	**Att.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Uril Parrish	179	775	4.3	9	
Tarrion Adams	**89**	**574**	**6.4**	**8**	
Paul Smith	**111**	**258**	**2.3**	**6**	
Receiving	**Rec.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Garrett Mills	87	1,235	14.2	9	
Ashlan Davis	35	451	12.9	5	

Kicking: Brad DeVault, 18-21 FGs, 49-51 XPs, 103 points
Tackles: **Nelson Coleman, 117; Bobby Blackshire, 99**
Sacks: **Nick Bunting, 5**
Interceptions: **Nick Graham, 6**

Returning Players in Bold

2006 UTEP ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
2 Carlton, Oswald	QB	6'2"	215	Fr.	Richmond, TX
8 Castro, Joe	QB	6'0"	195	Jr.	El Paso, TX
7 Dew, Brandis	QB	6'5"	265	Fr.	Hemet, CA
5 Palmer, Jordan	QB	6'5"	235	Sr.	Mission Viejo, CA
14 Sam, Lorne	QB/WR	6'3"	215	Jr.	Buford, GA
15 Wright, Kyle	QB	6'1"	200	Fr.	Santa Rosa, CA
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
35 Givens, Johan	RB	5'10"	220	Jr.	Sulphur Springs, TX
39 Gonzalez, Tony	RB	5'9"	185	Fr.	El Paso, TX
26 Jackson, Brandon	RB	6'1"	235	So.	Houston, TX
28 Lane, Jon	RB	5'10"	205	So.	El Paso, TX
43 Ogunlana, Omololu	RB	5'11"	185	So.	Houston, TX
8 Thomas, Marcus	RB	6'1"	215	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
11 Bell, Dustin	WR	5'11"	170	Fr.	Dallas, TX
12 Day, Chris	WR	5'9"	175	So.	El Paso, TX
24 Ellis, Matt	WR	6'0"	200	Jr.	Fullerton, CA
29 Fematt, Josh	WR	6'0"	210	Jr.	Socorro, TX
21 Higgins Jr., Johnnie Lee	WR	6'0"	180	Sr.	Sweeny, TX
87 Hunt, Jamar	TE	6'7"	260	So.	Mesa, AZ
10 Marrow, Chris	WR	5'9"	175	Sr.	El Paso, TX
81 Mauch, Casey	TE	6'3"	245	Sr.	Portland, TX
84 Moturi, Jeff	WR	6'0"	175	Fr.	Irving, TX
89 Podzemny, Adam	WR	6'1"	195	Fr.	Odessa, TX
1 Robinson, Daniel	WR	6'4"	200	Sr.	Oceanside, CA
37 Sears, Jake	TE	6'3"	250	Jr.	Fredericksburg, TX
88 Shadrawy, Tufick	WR	6'2"	190	Fr.	Arlington, TX
18 Sutton, David	WR	6'5"	225	Sr.	Long Beach, CA
4 West, Joe	WR	6'2"	210	Jr.	Garland, TX
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
76 Belshe, Jake	OL	6'2"	280	Sr.	St. Johns, AZ
75 Cousins, Oniel	OL	6'4"	300	Jr.	Fullerton, CA
62 Felix, Robby	OL	6'3"	290	So.	Corona, CA
77 Ford, Tim	OL	6'5"	270	Jr.	Tomball, TX
72 Garcia, Daniel	OL	6'3"	325	Fr.	El Paso, TX
64 Meek, Colby	OL	6'4"	295	Fr.	Keller, TX
58 Padilla, Humberto	OL	6'5"	305	Sr.	Union City, CA
78 Raschke, Cameron	OL	6'4"	325	Fr.	Kerrville, TX
57 Ribitzki, Tyler	OL	6'5"	300	So.	Burleson, TX
73 Riley, James	OL	6'2"	300	Jr.	Addison, TX
61 Smith, Andy	OL	6'4"	300	Sr.	Giddings, TX
66 Stout, Ty	OL	6'5"	280	Fr.	Amarillo, TX
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
71 Aguayo, Mike	DL	6'4"	280	Fr.	Lakewood, CA
52 Auelua, Alfonso	DL	6'2"	275	Sr.	Garden Grove, CA
56 Hanel, Justin	DL	6'4"	285	Sr.	Cameron, TX
83 Henckel, Aaron	DL	6'1"	195	Fr.	El Paso, TX
97 Loera, Anthony	DL	6'3"	260	Fr.	El Paso, TX
41 Miles Jr., Reggie	DL	6'3"	250	Sr.	Odessa, TX
99 Moore, Chris	DL	6'2"	270	Fr.	Houston, TX
92 O'Neill, Dane	DL	6'3"	235	Fr.	Chino Hills, CA
47 Obomese, Alex	DL	6'3"	245	Sr.	Houston, TX
91 Olalekan, James	DL	6'2"	295	So.	Texas City, TX
95 Riddick, Steve	DL	5'11"	275	Fr.	El Paso, TX
90 Van, Ricky	DL	6'3"	285	Sr.	San Bernardino, CA
94 Ward, Joe	DL	6'4"	240	Sr.	Houston, TX
96 Watson, Justin	DL	6'4"	275	Sr.	Farmington, NM
63 West, Zach	DL	6'5"	295	Sr.	Citra, FL
45 Williams, Matt	DL	6'1"	205	Fr.	Austin, TX
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
27 Chamois, Josh	LB	6'2"	235	Sr.	West Covina, CA
44 Collavo, Troy	LB	6'0"	235	Sr.	Mathis, TX
Douglas, Steve	LB	6'1"	205	Jr.	Anaheim, CA
32 Goodwell, Landon	LB	6'2"	240	Fr.	West Covina, CA
6 Jones, Jeremy	LB	6'1"	235	Sr.	San Jose, CA
36 Kirkland, Alan	LB	6'1"	240	Fr.	Cedar Park, TX
4 McQuay, Jason	LB	6'1"	210	Sr.	Eatontown, NJ
34 Spence, Emeri	LB	6'0"	210	Jr.	Garland, TX
17 Wilkins, Brian	LB	6'2"	235	Fr.	Tustin, CA
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
14 Amy, Braxton	DB	6'0"	195	Fr.	Richmond, TX
33 Brown, Brandon	DB	6'2"	200	Jr.	Pittsburgh, CA
20 Castleberry, Lance	DB	5'9"	175	Fr.	Dallas, TX
23 Cromartie, Da-mon	DB	6'2"	195	Fr.	Riverside, CA
9 Demps, Quintin	DB	6'0"	215	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
1 Draughon, Nate	DB	5'10"	175	Sr.	Garland, TX
2 Ferguson, Josh	DB	5'7"	185	Jr.	Hayward, CA
25 Fleskoski, Joe	DB	6'1"	200	Sr.	Mission Viejo, CA
16 Greene, Marcus	DB	6'0"	160	Fr.	Copperas Cove, TX
3 McCullouch, Tim	DB	5'11"	180	Sr.	Long Beach, CA
38 Monroe, T.J.	DB	6'1"	220	Jr.	San Jose, CA
15 Moss, Phillip	DB	5'11"	195	Sr.	Rockwall, TX
13 Patton, Fred	DB	5'9"	180	So.	Houston, TX
5 Tisdale, Bryant	DB	5'9"	175	Sr.	Clearwater, FL
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
86 Hiett, Greg	P	6'5"	220	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
7 Hotchkiss, Ryan	P	6'2"	210	Sr.	Newport Beach, CA
50 King, Aaron	LS	6'1"	235	Sr.	Frisco, TX
49 Schneider, Reagan	K	6'0"	180	Sr.	Canyon Lake, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (7)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	10	Chris Marrow	Sr.
WR	4	Joe West	Jr.
WR	**21**	**Johnnie Lee Higgins Jr.**	**Sr.**
LT	75	Oniel Cousins	Jr.
LG	61	Andy Smith	Sr.
C	**62**	**Robby Felix**	**So.**
RG	**73**	**James Riley**	**Jr.**
RT	**57**	**Tyler Ribitzki**	**So.**
TE	**37**	**Jake Sears**	**Jr.**
QB	**5**	**Jordan Palmer**	**Sr.**
TB	**8**	**Marcus Thomas**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	11	Dustin Bell	Fr.
WR	12	Chris Day	So.
WR	1	Daniel Robinson	Sr.
LT	77	Tim Ford	Jr.
LG	64	Colby Meek	Fr.
C	76	Jake Belshe	Sr.
RG	76	Jake Belshe	Sr.
RT	58	Humberto Padilla	Sr.
TE	87	Jamar Hunt	So.
QB	7	Brandis Dew	Fr.
TB	35	Johan Givens	Jr.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (10)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**47**	**Alex Obomese**	**Sr.**
DT	**56**	**Justin Hanel**	**Sr.**
DT	**63**	**Zach West**	**Sr.**
DE	**94**	**Joe Ward**	**Sr.**
SLB	4	Jason McQuay	Sr.
MLB	**44**	**Troy Collavo**	**Sr.**
WLB	**6**	**Jeremy Jones**	**Sr.**
CB	**1**	**Nate Draughon**	**Sr.**
CB	**2**	**Josh Ferguson**	**Jr.**
SS	**25**	**Joe Fleskoski**	**Sr.**
FS	**9**	**Quintin Demps**	**Jr.**

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	41	Reggie Miles Jr.	Sr.
DT	91	James Olalekan	So.
DT	90	Ricky Van	Sr.
DE	96	Justin Watson	Sr.
SLB	34	Emeri Spence	Jr.
MLB	4	Jason McQuay	Sr.
WLB	17	Brian Wilkins	Fr.
CB	5	Bryant Tisdale	Sr.
CB	3	Tim McCullouch	Sr.
SS	15	Phillip Moss	Sr.
FS	14	Braxton Amy	Fr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	49	Reagan Schneider	Sr.
P	7	Ryan Hotchkiss	Sr.
KR	21	Johnnie Lee Higgins	Sr.
PR	21	Johnnie Lee Higgins	Sr.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Mike Price
Record at School: 16–8 (2 years)
Career Record: 145–130 (24 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Price
Defensive Coordinator: Tim Hundley
El Paso, Texas
Sun Bowl (51,500)

2006 SIGNEES

Kris Adams	WR/DB	6'3"	185	Fort Worth, TX
Cornelius Brown	DB	5'11"	185	Houston, TX
Donald Buckram	RB	5'10"	180	Copperas Cove, TX
Tanner Cullumber	OL	6'4"	265	Chandler, AZ
Kye Darden	WR	5'10"	165	Brownwood, TX
Evan Davis	WR	6'1"	180	Los Angeles, CA
Elijah Goldtrap	TE	6'5"	255	Lake Los Angeles, CA
Pierce Hunter	WR	6'4"	210	National City, CA
Rod Huntley	OL	6'2"	300	Arlington, TX
Brandon Jordan	WR/DB	6'2"	205	Missouri City, TX
Jose Martinez	K	5'11"	185	San Jose, CA
Anthony McNac	OL	6'4"	300	Lancaster, TX
Michael Mitchell	DB/LB	6'1"	190	Dallas, TX
Jonny Moore	TE	6'5"	230	San Antonio, TX
Anthony Morrow	DB	6'0"	185	Fallbrook, CA
Will Osolinsky	OL/DL	6'7"	260	Phoenix, AZ
Kyle Petersen	P/K	6'4"	220	Alta Loma, CA
George Randall	DL	6'6"	265	Sugarland, TX
Eric Reynolds	WR/DB	5'11"	200	Port Arthur, TX
Aaron Sims	DB/LB	6'1"	205	Fort Worth, TX
Royzell Smith	LB	6'2"	200	Missouri City, TX
Robert Soleyjacks	LB/DL	6'3"	235	San Diego, CA
Alex Solot	OL	6'7"	280	Tucson, AZ
Melvin Stephenson	DB	5'11"	185	Grand Prairie, TX
James Thomas	QB	5'11"	185	Missouri City, TX
Trevor Vittatoe	QB	6'2"	200	Bedford, TX
Jon Wiley	OL	6'5"	275	Pittsburgh, PA
Jason Williams	RB	6'0"	205	Tyler, TX
Robert Williams	DL	6'3"	195	Denver, CO

UTEP's 2006 recruiting class could end up being one of the best in UTEP head coach Mike Price's 24-year coaching career. And that's saying something, considering Price's résumé. The class addressed the Miners' pressing needs — receiver, offensive line and secondary — and then some. "In my opinion, it's as good as any recruiting class we had at Washington State," Price says of the 29-man class. "I don't know if we'll have a Marcus Trufant or a Drew Bledsoe, but it's good." The group features eight highly ranked players in Texas.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 8–4 (5–3 C-USA)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S. 3	at New Mexico State	W	34–17	30,343
S. 16	Houston	W	(2ot) 44–41	45,558
S. 24	New Mexico	W	21–13	50,425
O. 1	at Memphis	L	20–27	30,053
O. 14	at Tulane	W	45–21	13,153
O. 22	Marshall	W	31– 3	51,500
O. 29	at Rice	W	38–31	9,326
N. 5	Tulsa	W	41–38	49,160
N. 12	Texas Southern	W	45– 0	42,784
N. 19	UAB	L	23–35	47,967
N. 26	at SMU	L	27–40	17,194
D. 21	#Toledo	L	13–45	35,422
	#GMAC Bowl			

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Jordan Palmer	**434**	**258**	**3,503**	**29**	**19**
Orlando Cruz	20	10	104	0	1

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Marcus Thomas	**149**	**791**	**5.3**	**5**
Tyler Ebell	118	536	4.5	5

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
Johnnie Lee Higgins	**49**	**837**	**17.1**	**9**
Chris Francies	**44**	**774**	**17.6**	**5**

Kicking: Reagan Schneider, 18-23 FGs, 41-41 XPs, 95 points
Tackles: Jeremy Jones, 130; Troy Collavo, 112
Sacks: Alex Obomese, 6.5
Interceptions: Quintin Demps, 3; Joe Fleskoski, 3

Returning Players in Bold

GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES
PRESENTS THE

CONFERENCE USA FUTURE STARS

SCOUT.COM REVIEWS C-USA RECRUITING AND RANKS THE LEAGUE'S NEWCOMERS BASED ON THEIR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE RIGHT AWAY

Skip Holtz did an outstanding job in his first season at East Carolina, improving the Pirates from 2–9 in 2004 to 5–6 in '05. His success on the field carried over into the recruiting wars. Holtz was successful filling a void with some much-needed linebackers and offensive linemen. Four early enrollees — offensive lineman Andrew Farr and linebackers Orlando Farrow, Danny Muhwezi and Fred Wilson — all enter with quality game experience.

Houston coach Art Briles focused on finding some bodies for his 3-4 defense and searched for a replacement for top running backs Anthony Evans and Ryan Gilbert. Randall Antoine, Tommy Bryant and Marquis Lowe will have an opportunity to play right away in the Cougars' backfield.

Coach Mark Snyder's first class at Marshall included some key early enrollees who will be counted on to contribute in the fall — wide receiver Mike Bolio, kicker Anthony Binswanger and defensive end Ryland Wilson.

Memphis coach Tommy West's balanced group is highlighted by wide receiver Duke Calhoun, quarterback Matt Malouf, linebacker Corderick Govan, linebacker Jeremy Longstreet, kicker Matt Reagan and defensive end Josh Weaver.

Fiery first-year Rice coach Todd Graham signed 18 student-athletes after taking the helm a month before National Signing Day. Graham's biggest recruiting coup, however, was the coaching staff he assembled, including John Pearce as assistant head coach/offense and running backs coach, Major Applewhite as offensive coordinator and former Alabama defensive ends coach Paul Randolph as associate head coach and defensive coordinator.

SMU coach Phil Bennett continues to make progress with the Mustangs on the field, and he continues to attract some solid talent from the state of Texas. Bennett is excited about early enrollee Corey Slater, a quarterback from Dixie State (Utah) College.

Southern Miss coach Jeff Bower does a good job recruiting players who attend his football camps over the summer. His staff gets an up-close look and is able to build the player-coach relationship. This year, 11 of USM's 28 recruits attended summer camp in Hattiesburg.

Due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Tulane had a difficult year on the field and had some hurdles to overcome in the recruiting game, as well. Still, coach Chris Scelfo and his staff signed a large class players, headlined by quarterback Kevin Moore, defensive end Cody Sparks, kicker/punter Ross Thevenot, linebacker Josh Mitzel and offensive lineman Nick Landry.

Underrated Tulsa coach Steve Kragthorpe dipped into the junior college ranks for five of his 22 players. Kragthorpe is counting on some help from early enrollees Devin Adair (tight end), Justin Morsey (offensive lineman) and Tanner Antle (linebacker).

Coach Watson Brown dipped into the talent in his own state to sign one of the top classes ever at UAB. Several of the touted signees are tight end Jeffrey Anderson, defensive back J.D. Douglas, running back Chris Evans, defensive end Bryant Turner and wide receivers Tebiarus Gill and Courtney Smith.

The Sunshine State is an easy draw for athletes from across the country, and UCF coach George O'Leary took advantage by inking players from seven different states. The class includes monster offensive linemen Jeramy DeVane and Mike Buxton, both from the state of Florida.

All but one of UTEP's 29-man class came from the high school ranks. Headliners include running back Donald Buckram, wide receiver Kris Adams and offensive lineman Rod Huntley.

C-USA RECRUITING

1. EAST CAROLINA
2. MEMPHIS
3. UAB
4. HOUSTON
5. MARSHALL
6. TULANE
7. TULSA
8. UCF
9. SOUTHERN MISS
10. SMU
11. RICE
12. UTEP

TOP 20 CONFERENCE USA IMPACT NEWCOMERS »

1.	DUKE CALHOUN	WR	6'4"	185	MEMPHIS, TN	MEMPHIS
2.	JARED WHITE	WR	6'0"	185	MOBILE, AL	UAB
3.	ANDRE ANDERSON	RB	5'11"	190	STONE MOUNTAIN, GA	TULANE
4.	ROSHAAD BYRD	DE	6'3"	210	MERIDIAN, MS	SOUTHERN MISS
5.	ORLANDO FARROW	LB	6'3"	225	GEORGETOWN, DE	EAST CAROLINA
6.	SEAN MERRILL	DL	6'4"	290	D'IBERVILLE, MS	SOUTHERN MISS
7.	COREY KIZER	WR	6'2"	210	MEMPHIS, TN	TULSA
8.	JERAMY DEVANE	G	6'3"	290	ORMOND BEACH, FL	UCF
9.	C.J. BAILEY	CB	5'10"	187	MOSS POINT, MS	SOUTHERN MISS
10.	DARIUS PASSMORE	WR	6'3"	180	HOMESTEAD, FL	MARSHALL
11.	CORDERICK GOVAN	LB	6'2"	200	CASCILLA, MS	MEMPHIS
12.	J.D. DOUGLAS	DB	6'2"	200	PRATTVILLE, AL	UAB
13.	DONALD BUCKRAM	RB	5'10"	180	COPPERAS COVE, TX	UTEP
14.	KEITH HOUSTON	WR	6'0"	190	MIRAMAR, FL	UCF
15.	BIREN EALY	WR	6'3"	194	HOUSTON, TX	HOUSTON
16.	JEREMY LONGSTREET	LB	6'1"	200	OLIVE BRANCH, MS	MEMPHIS
17.	FRED WILSON	LB	6'2"	255	CROSS, SC	EAST CAROLINA
18.	TOREN DIXON	WR	6'3"	200	BATON ROUGE, LA	RICE
19.	PHILLIP BURLEY	WR	6'5"	210	ROSSER, TX	SMU
20.	DEVIN ADAIR	TE	6'0"	225	TORRANCE, CA	TULSA

National Forecast **18** | MWC Prediction **1st**

Before anyone in Manhattan, Kan., had an opportunity to speak with him about the Kansas State coaching job, Gary Patterson signed a long-term contract extension in late November to remain the Horned Frogs' coach. Patterson, a Kansas State graduate who was rumored to be a leading candidate for the Big 12 job, claimed that he didn't want to leave Fort Worth without finding out how far he could lead the Horned Frogs.

"I believe we've got a chance to do something special," Patterson says. "We want to take this program to the next level."

He might take the program there in his sixth season. Behind a wealth of returning talent on defense and a rising star at quarterback, the reigning Mountain West Conference champs have the potential to become the second so-called "mid-major" school to reach a BCS game.

Quarterbacks Since he became the Horned Frogs' coach in 2000, Patterson has rarely finished a season with the same starting quarterback he had under center in the team's season opener.

Patterson has grown so used to the routine that he has started calling his school "Backup Quarterback U."

Jeff Ballard is the latest backup-turned-starter to impress Patterson. After throwing only one pass in his first three years on campus, Ballard replaced injured starter Tye Gunn last season and ended up going a perfect 8–0 as a starter.

The coaching staff expects the returning senior to be even better this season. He improved his decision-making in the spring and has become the leader of the offense. Ballard is hoping to become the first TCU quarterback to start every game in a season since 2001.

Ballard's backup is a question mark. Junior Chad Huffman is expected to serve in that role, but he might enter the Major League Baseball Draft. If he leaves, the Horned Frogs don't have another quarterback who has taken a snap.

Running Backs Robert Merrill is no longer interested in calculating how the Horned Frogs' backfield compares to the rest of the nation. He'd prefer to show how good TCU's backfield is.

"We've been talking about having one of the best running back tandems in the nation since I've been here," Merrill says. "But we need to show that we're one of the best."

That should not be a problem.

The Horned Frogs have three running backs capable of earning all-conference honors. Senior Lonta Hobbs, sophomore Aaron Brown and Merrill, who is also a senior, have combined for 5,935 rushing yards and 57 rushing touchdowns over their careers and could end up combining for 2,000 yards this season. Brown is the fastest of the group, while Merrill and Hobbs usually gain the bulk of their yardage between the tackles.

The depth at running back has forced the coaching staff to become more creative, and Patterson expects to use more two-back sets than in previous seasons. Hobbs will also share time at fullback with incumbent William Jackson to make the running back rotation easier.

NUMBERS GAME

10 The Horned Frogs have won 10 consecutive games, which is good enough for the second-longest winning streak in the nation. Only defending national champion Texas has a longer streak.

Receivers Cory Rodgers, who was the Horned Frogs' go-to receiver for the past two seasons, is gone after skipping his senior season to enter the NFL Draft. He will be missed, since the Horned Frogs don't have an obvious replacement.

Senior Quentily Harmon is the most experienced wideout on the team, but he has never caught more than 30 passes in a season, and he missed last season's trip to the Houston Bowl because he was academically ineligible. The team's other senior wideout, Michael DePriest, had only nine receptions last season.

The Horned Frogs do have some talented young receivers like Marcus Brock, Donald Massey and Walter Bryant, but no one in that group is proven.

Ballard could end up relying on senior tight end Chad Andrus — or one of his running backs — in the passing game until one of his receivers emerges.

Offensive Linemen Three-year starter Herbert Taylor moved from right tackle to left tackle in the spring to protect the quarterback's blindside. Now, the Horned Frogs are going to have to figure out who will protect the other sides of the quarterback.

Taylor is the offensive line's only returning starter, and he also might be the only lineman who is certain to start in the Horned Frogs' season-opener. The coaching staff wasn't overly thrilled with the development of the other linemen in the spring.

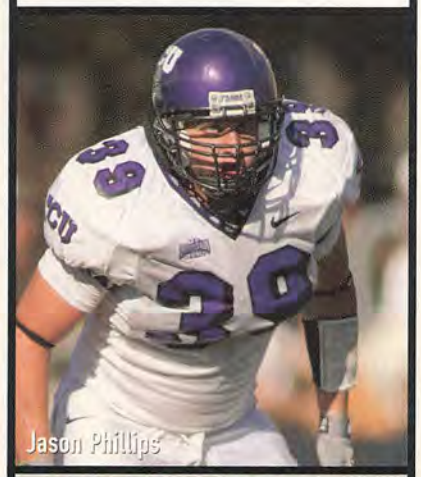
"We have a chance to have a good offense, but we need to grow up on the offensive line," Patterson says.

Patterson says right guard Matty Lindner, center Blake Schlueter and left guard Giles

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE HORNED FROGS

Behind a rising star at quarterback and one of the nation's most athletic defenses, the Horned Frogs have the potential to duplicate Utah's feat of reaching a BCS game as a mid-major team. The question will be whether the Horned Frogs can overcome an unforgiving early schedule and finish the regular season with no more than one setback. Three of the Frogs' first five opponents reached a bowl game last year — including a Texas Tech team that beat them 70–35 in 2004. The Horned Frogs won't be talking about reaching a BCS game past September if the offensive line doesn't improve before the season opener at Baylor. The unit struggled in the spring and might force the coaching staff to play true freshmen in the trenches before they are ready. But other than that one concern, the Horned Frogs appear to be a good bet to repeat as Mountain West Conference champions and flirt with a BCS bid. TCU should once again lead the conference in sacks and forced turnovers thanks to a speedy defense, while quarterback Jeff Ballard and the outstanding rushing trio of Lonta Hobbs, Robert Merrill and Aaron Brown should help the offense put up plenty of points.



Jason Phillips

John Bettancourt

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	at Baylor	W
S.	9	UC Davis	W
S.	**16**	**Texas Tech**	*
S.	28	BYU	W
O.	**5**	**at Utah**	*
O.	21	at Army	W
O.	28	Wyoming	W
N.	4	at UNLV	W
N.	11	at New Mexico	W
N.	18	San Diego State	W
N.	25	at Colorado State	W
D.	2	Air Force	W

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Montgomery are expected to be in the starting lineup, but he isn't sure whether Heath Raetz or Wade Sisk will emerge at right tackle.

Defensive Linemen The Horned Frogs boast one of the nation's best defensive end tandems in Tommy Blake and Chase Ortiz. The duo combined for 16 sacks and 27.5 tackles for a loss last season.

"We push each other," Blake says. "We both want to get to the quarterback first."

Despite losing two starters at defensive tackle, TCU is stocked there as well. Sophomore Lorenzo Jones could become one of the best defensive tackles that the school has ever had, while Cody Moore, James Vess and Jarrarcea Williams will ensure the Horned Frogs have the deepest defensive line in the Mountain West.

Linebackers The Horned Frogs have six returning linebackers with significant experience and could probably run a defensive scheme that implements three or four linebackers. Fortunately for opposing offenses, Patterson prefers his 4-2-5 scheme.

"We'd have a pretty good defense with three linebackers on the field," junior David Hawthorne says. "But with two starting linebackers, we're always fresh."

Jason Phillips and Hawthorne are the returning starters of the group, but athletic linebackers Robert Henson and Darius Ingram, a transfer from LSU, will see plenty of action this fall.

Defensive Backs The Horned Frogs forced more turnovers than any other team in the nation last season, but the team has to find a reliable pair of starting cornerbacks to wreak such havoc again.

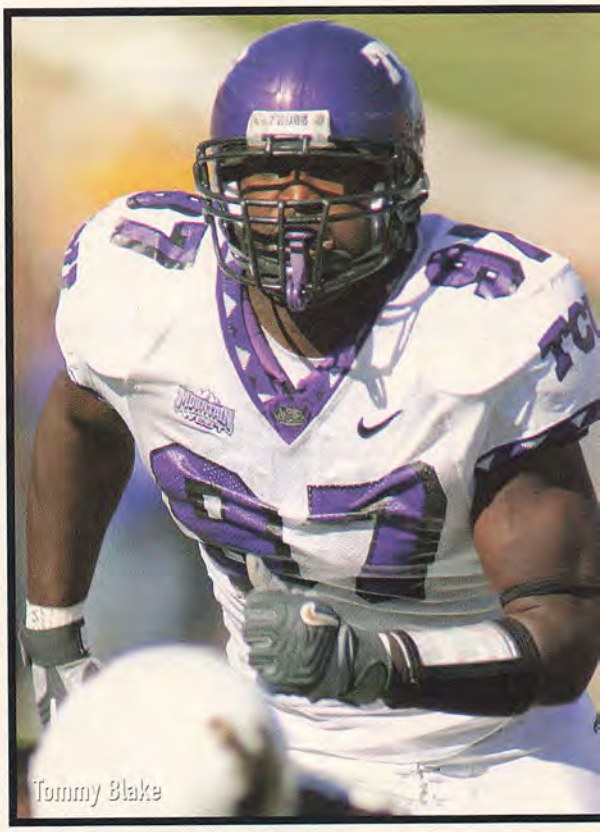
Patterson's defensive staff isn't short of options. Redshirt freshmen Nick Sanders and Rafael Priest ended the spring as starters, but junior college transfer Torrey Stewart should push for a spot on the first team when he arrives for preseason practice. Vernon Russell, a transfer from LSU, could also get in the mix.

The safety positions are more settled. Weak safety Marvin White, a second-team All-Mountain West performer, is one of the hardest hitters on the defense. Free safety David Roach will be given the first crack at trying to replace graduated senior and three-year starter Jeremy Modkins, while junior Brian Bonner will share time with senior Eric Buchanan at strong safety.

Specialists TCU has a solid field goal kicking tandem in Chris Manfredini and Peter LoCoco. Manfredini made all 13 of his field goal attempts last season as the Horned Frogs' short distance kicker, while LoCoco handled long-distance boots. LoCoco made a game-winning 44-yard field goal in the Houston Bowl.

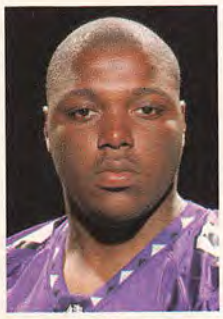
Punter Brian Cortney returns after averaging 38.6 yards per kick. He showed more consistency in the spring.

Rodgers' early departure for the NFL will hurt the Horned Frogs' return game as much as their receiving corps. Rodgers ranked third in the nation in kickoff returns and was a formidable punt returner. Brock will try to match his ability on punt returns, while the Frogs will turn to DePriest and Massey on kickoff returns.


Tommy Blake

RISING STAR

Defensive tackle Lorenzo Jones routinely informed reporters hanging around campus last season that he was available for interviews, but he was rarely interviewed since he was a third-string defensive linemen. Jones won't have to beg for media attention this season. The 300-pound sophomore will become a full-time starter and is expected to become one of the best defensive tackles in the program's history.



OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Scheduling anyone Gary Patterson has often stated that his team will play anyone, and he backed it up this offseason by lining up recent national champions LSU and Texas on the school's future schedules. The Horned Frogs will go head-to-head with the Longhorns beginning in 2007 and the Bayou Bengals starting in 2013.

Lonta's back Running back Lonta Hobbs got a medical redshirt after missing the school's final 10 games with a groin injury. He'll have to share carries with fellow running backs Robert Merrill and Aaron Brown and might even spend more time at fullback than tailback during his senior season. In fact, Hobbs spent the bulk of the spring learning to play the fullback position.

Million-dollar man Patterson didn't reveal the details of his recent contract extension since TCU is a private school. But some fans were referring to Patterson as a "Million-Dollar Man" after he signed the contract. The deal, which is signed through 2012, is believed to be worth over $1 million per season after incentives.

John Bettancourt

SCOUTING THE HORNED FROGS

Opposing coaches size up TCU: "TCU's got it going on. There's no reason why they can't be good again. The quarterback, (Jeff) Ballard, is coming back. He had a great year for what they asked him to do. The young running back is off the charts. They did lose (Cory Rodgers); he declared for the draft. They've got linemen, they've got solid kids on defense, they got a great scheme on both sides of the ball, they played good special teams. No reason why they can't be good. They've got recruiting advantages no one else in this conference has. If any school in the MWC goes into Texas and recruits, and TCU wants 'em, it's going to be pretty hard for anybody else to get 'em. There's speed, speed, speed, they've got speed, so they're gonna be a very formidable program as long as they're in the Mountain West."

2006 TCU ROSTER

Quarterbacks	POS	HT	WT	CL	Hometown
16 Ballard, Jeff	QB	6'1"	208	Sr.	Friendswood, TX
12 Huffman, Chad	QB	6'1"	206	Jr.	Missouri City, TX
11 Jackson, Marcus	QB	6'1"	200	Fr.	Houston, TX
Running Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
23 Brown, Aaron	TB	6'1"	190	So.	Katy, TX
44 Cameron, Cash	FB	5'10"	205	Fr.	Houston, TX
30 Hobbs, Lonta	TB	5'10"	220	Sr.	Clarksville, TX
47 Jackson, William	FB	6'0"	237	Jr.	Whitewright, TX
34 James, Detrick	TB	5'8"	180	So.	Shreveport, LA
33 Merrill, Robert	TB	5'10"	204	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
36 Smith, Chris	FB	5'11"	230	Fr.	Navasota, TX
24 Turner, Joseph	TB	6'1"	210	Fr.	Austin, TX
32 Watts, Justin	TB	5'10"	198	So.	Center, TX
Receivers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
81 Andrus, Chad	TE	6'4"	246	Sr.	Keller, TX
88 Ball, Grant	WR	6'1"	190	Fr.	Fort Worth, TX
3 Brock, Marcus	WR	6'0"	185	Jr.	Lindale, TX
85 Bryant, Walter	WR	6'4"	205	So.	San Angelo, TX
26 Bynum, Prince	WR	6'3"	185	So	Dallas, TX
10 Cage, William	WR	6'4"	207	So.	Falfurrias, TX
22 Christian, Ryan	WR	5'11"	185	Fr.	Aledo, TX
89 Cunigan, Quinton	TE	6'3"	225	Jr.	Wills Point, TX
19 DePriest, Michael	WR	6'0"	192	Sr.	Keller, TX
21 Dickerson, Ervin	WR	6'1"	200	Jr.	Beeville, TX
49 Englert, Trey	TE	6'3"	245	Jr.	Houston, TX
18 Harmon, Quentily	WR	6'1"	184	Sr.	Jacksonville, TX
80 Hecht, Brent	TE	6'4"	256	Sr.	Bern, KS
2 Massey, Donald	WR	5'11"	170	Jr.	Hillsboro, TX
4 Moore, Derek	WR	6'3"	174	Jr.	Cedarburg, WI
86 Reagan, Shae	TE	6'4"	245	So.	Idalou, TX
92 Stevens, Tom	TE	6'6"	235	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
Offensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
77 Bouldwin, Maurice	G	6'4"	290	Sr.	LaGrange, TX
66 Clark, Robert	T	6'6"	245	So.	Weatherford, TX
73 Karlin, Josh	OL	6'4"	266	Fr.	Shawnee, KS
64 Lindner, Matty	G	6'4"	293	Jr.	Comfort, TX
68 Lowery, Adam	G	6'2"	270	Jr.	Brandon, MS
50 Marrou, Tyler	OL	6'5"	245	Fr.	Corpus Christi, TX
65 Montgomery, Giles	G	6'5"	275	So.	Sweetwater, TX
60 Phillips, Preston	G	6'6"	270	So.	Amarillo, TX
63 Raetz, Heath	T	6'5"	280	So.	Burleson, TX
79 Richmond, Nic	OL	6'8"	285	Fr.	Garland, TX
74 Savino, Tony	OL	6'2"	255	Jr.	Costa Mesa, CA
75 Schlueter, Blake	C	6'3"	260	So.	Ganado, TX
76 Sefton, Ryan	OL	6'5"	290	Jr.	Gulfport, MS
71 Sisk, Wade	T	6'7"	270	Jr.	Brenham, TX
78 Taylor, Herb	T	6'4"	287	Sr.	Houston, TX
53 Wyatt, Ryan	G	6'3"	285	Fr.	Spring Branch, TX
Defensive Linemen	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
97 Blake, Tommy	DE	6'3"	250	Jr.	Aransas Pass, TX
91 Christopher, Allen	DE	6'4"	225	Fr.	Jacksonville, TX
99 Jones, Lorenzo	DT	6'4"	300	So.	McKinney, TX
98 Knight, Michael	DT	6'2"	250	Fr.	Euless, TX
56 Moore, Cody	DT	6'1"	275	So.	Comfort, TX
41 Moore, Eric	DT	6'1"	245	Fr.	Fort Worth, TX
95 Newby, Jamison	DE	6'3"	252	Sr.	Cleburne, TX
93 Ortiz, Chase	DE	6'3"	250	Jr.	League City, TX
42 Panfil, Matt	DE	6'2"	230	So.	Fort Worth, TX
83 Retkofsky, Jared	DE	6'5"	270	Sr.	Justin, TX
55 Vess, James	DT	6'3"	260	So.	Fort Worth, TX
58 Williams, Jarrarcea	DT	6'0"	310	Sr.	Shreveport, LA
Linebackers	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
96 Gleaton, James	LB	6'0"	235	So.	Early, TX
46 Hawthorne, David	LB	6'0"	235	Jr.	Corsicana, TX
51 Henson, Robert	LB	6'1"	222	So.	Longview, TX
37 Ingram, Darius	LB	6'2"	218	Jr.	Tenaha, TX
39 Phillips, Jason	LB	6'1"	240	So.	Waller, TX
35 Ward, Andrew	LB	6'2"	232	Sr.	Shreveport, LA
Washington, Darryl	LB	6'1"	210	Fr.	Irving, TX
Defensive Backs	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
6 Bonner, Brian	S	5'11"	203	Jr.	Beeville, TX
25 Buchanan, Eric	WS	5'11"	196	Sr.	Glen Heights, TX
27 Burrell, Andy	S	6'2"	200	So	Fort Worth, TX
43 Clarke, Chris	S	5'9"	180	Jr.	Cave Creek, AZ
38 Coleman, Steven	S	6'3"	205	So.	Dallas, TX
31 Gallegos, Elvis	S	6'0"	200	Sr.	N. Richland Hills, TX
29 Hodge, Stephen	S	6'0"	210	So.	Tatum, TX
19 Hunter, Corderra	S	6'2"	180	Fr.	Longview, TX
1 Lewis, Ken	S	6'0"	202	Sr.	Garland, TX
14 Priest, Rafael	CB	5'10"	175	Fr.	Dallas, TX
27 Roach, David	S	6'2"	210	Jr.	Abilene, TX
48 Ruelas, Kenneth	CB	5'11"	184	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
9 Russell, Vernon	CB	6'0"	195	Sr.	Gramercy, LA
7 Salvage, Mike	CB	5'10"	190	Sr.	Santa Rosa, CA
20 Sanders, Nick	CB	5'10"	170	Fr.	Kilgore, TX
26 White, Marvin	S	6'2"	200	Sr.	Port Barre, LA
40 Zavala, Justin	CB	5'10"	180	Jr.	Ventura, CA
Specialists	**POS**	**HT**	**WT**	**CL**	**Hometown**
40 Cortney, Brian	P/K	6'4"	215	Sr.	San Diego, CA
67 Haight, Sean	LS	5'11"	215	Fr.	San Diego, CA
54 Lawson, Landry	P/K	6'1"	170	Fr.	Grand Prairie, TX
13 LoCoco, Peter	K	6'1"	201	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
44 Manfredini, Chris	P/K	5'9"	170	Jr.	Colleyville, TX
2 Milliken, Garrett	P/K	6'0"	190	Fr.	Dallas, TX
38 Walters, Zach	K	6'0"	185	Fr.	Granbury, TX
92 Wash, Derek	P	6'4"	172	Jr.	Arlington, TX

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE (4)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	18	Quentily Harmon	Sr.
WR	19	Michael DePriest	Sr.
LT	**78**	**Herbert Taylor**	**Sr.**
LG	65	Giles Montgomery	So.
C	75	Blake Schlueter	So.
RG	64	Matty Lindner	Jr.
RT	63	Heath Raetz	So.
TE	**81**	**Chad Andrus**	**Sr.**
QB	**16**	**Jeff Ballard**	**Sr.**
FB	47	William Jackson	Jr.
RB	**33**	**Robert Merrill**	**Sr.**

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
WR	3	Marcus Brock	Jr.
WR	2	Donald Massey	Jr.
LT	79	Nic Richmond	Fr.
LG	77	Maurice Bouldwin	Sr.
C	72	Ryan Sefton	Jr.
RG	60	Preston Phillips	So.
RT	71	Wade Sisk	Jr.
TE	80	Brent Hecht	Sr.
QB	12	Chad Huffman	Jr.
FB	30	Lonta Hobbs	Sr.
RB	23	Aaron Brown	So.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE (6)

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	**93**	**Chase Ortiz**	**Jr.**
DT	56	Cody Moore	So.
DT	99	Lorenzo Jones	So.
DE	**97**	**Tommy Blake**	**Jr.**
SLB	**46**	**David Hawthorne**	**Jr.**
MLB	**39**	**Jason Phillips**	**So.**
CB	20	Nick Sanders	Fr.
CB		Torrey Stewart	Jr.
SS	**25**	**Eric Buchanan**	**Sr.**
WS	**26**	**Marvin White**	**Sr.**
FS	27	David Roach	Jr.

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
DE	42	Matt Panfil	So.
DT	55	James Vess	So.
DT	58	Jarrarcea Williams	Sr.
DE	95	Jamison Newby	Sr.
SLB	51	Robert Henson	So.
MLB	37	Darius Ingram	Jr.
CB	9	Vernon Russell	Sr.
CB	14	Rafael Priest	Fr.
SS	6	Brian Bonner	Jr.
WS	29	Stephen Hodge	So.
FS	38	Steven Coleman	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	No.	Name	Class
K	44	Chris Manfredini	Jr.
P	40	Brian Cortney	Sr.
KR	19	Michael DePriest	Sr.
PR	3	Marcus Brock	Jr.

Returning Starters In Bold

Head Coach: Gary Patterson
Record at School: 43–18 (5 years)
Career Record: 43–18 (5 years)
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Schultz
Defensive Coordinator: Dick Bumpas
Fort Worth, Texas
Amon G. Carter (46,000)

2006 SIGNEES

Marcus Cannon	OL	6'5"	319	Odessa, TX
Andy Dalton	QB	6'3"	185	Katy, TX
Wayne Daniels	DE	6'2"	230	Kilgore, TX
Zack Eskridge	QB	6'3"	195	Rockwall, TX
Evan Frosch	TE	6'4"	235	Midland, TX
Cory Grant	DT	6'2"	293	Houston, TX
Jerry Hughes	TE/DE	6'2"	225	Sugar Land, TX
Alex Ibiloye	CB	6'0"	170	Garland, TX
Colin Jones	S	6'0"	205	Bridgeport, TX
Jake Kirkpatrick	OL	6'3"	273	Tyler, TX
Clarence Leatch	DE	6'4"	210	Longview, TX
Marshall Newhouse	OL	6'3"	317	Richardson, TX
Henry Niutei	DT	6'4"	275	Euless, TX
Clint Renfro	WR	6'0"	160	Southlake, TX
Ryan Sefton	OL	6'5"	290	Gulfport, MS
Torrey Stewart	CB	5'11"	175	Kosciusko, MS
Josh Vernon	OL	6'2"	295	Irving, TX
Jimmy Young	WR	6'1"	200	Monroe, LA

TCU's recruiting class was more about size than sizzle. "We didn't recruit a bunch of guys who can run all over the field," coach Gary Patterson says. "But we did get a lot of big bodies. That's what we needed." The Horned Frogs indeed added some much-needed depth in the trenches by signing 10 players who are either offensive or defensive linemen. Junior college transfer Ryan Sefton is expected to provide immediate depth on the offensive line, and Patterson believes at least two of his true freshmen offensive linemen will receive playing time. On the other side of the ball, defensive end Wayne Daniels is considered the Horned Frogs' most impressive signee in a group filled with talented pass rushers. Besides linemen, Patterson did ink a few speedy playmakers. Wide receiver Clint Renfro, the son of former Houston Oilers receiver Mike Renfro, is a future deep threat, and junior college transfer Torrey Stewart could end up in the starting lineup at cornerback.

2005 RESULTS

Record: 11–1 (8–0 MWC)

Date	Opponent	Result	Score	Att.
S. 3	at Oklahoma	W	17–10	84,332
S. 10	at SMU	L	10–21	22,416
S. 15	Utah	W	(ot) 23–20	25,220
S. 24	at BYU	W	(ot) 51–50	58,320
O. 1	New Mexico	W	49–28	32,251
O. 8	at Wyoming	W	28–14	27,723
O. 15	Army	W	38–17	34,478
O. 22	at Air Force	W	48–10	33,210
O. 29	at San Diego State	W	23–20	21,698
N. 5	Colorado State	W	33– 6	36,284
N. 12	UNLV	W	51– 3	28,035
D. 31	#Iowa State	W	27–24	37,286
	#Houston Bowl			

2005 INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Jeff Ballard	**232**	**139**	**1,801**	**13**	**7**
Tye Gunn	136	64	646	2	4
Rushing	**Att.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Robert Merrill	**187**	**911**	**4.9**	**10**	
Aaron Brown	**128**	**758**	**5.9**	**6**	
Receiving	**Rec.**	**Yds.**	**Avg.**	**TD**	
Cory Rodgers	52	685	13.2	5	
Quentily Harmon	**28**	**318**	**11.4**	**1**	
Donald Massey	**21**	**203**	**9.7**	**0**	

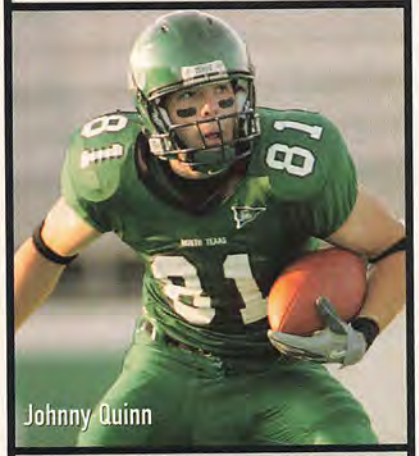
Kicking: Chris Manfredini, 13-13 FGs, 40-44 XPs, 79 points
Tackles: Jason Phillips, 71; Robert Henson, 69
Sacks: Chase Ortiz, 9.0
Interceptions: Quincy Butler, 5

Returning Players in Bold

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MEAN GREEN

Walking around with a bull's-eye on its back was not a good way for an inexperienced and often-injured North Texas team to go through the 2005 season. The resulting 2–9 record was not a lie. But it didn't tell the entire story, either. In spite of their youth and injuries, the Mean Green went toe-to-toe with all of its Sun Belt Conference rivals. Now that the youngsters have matured and the aches and pains have had time to heal, North Texas is poised to make a run for the Sun Belt title, a prize it considers its birthright. There will be a battle royal between Daniel Meager and Matt Phillips for the quarterback job. But there is tremendous skill in the backfield in Jamario Thomas, at receiver in Johnny Quinn and up front in Dylan Lineberry. A new 3-4 defensive package will let a deep and talented linebacking corps showcases its skill. Strong safety Aaron Weathers is about as good as you'll find in the Sun Belt. The pass rushers and cornerbacks are unproven but they should have time to develop as the Sun Belt is not a pass-happy league. The real test will come from the schedule as UNT faces Arkansas State, UL Monroe and UL Lafayette on the road.



Johnny Quinn

2006 SCHEDULE

S.	2	at Texas	L
S.	9	SMU	L
S.	16	at Tulsa	L
S.	23	at Akron	L
S.	**30**	**Middle Tennessee**	*
O.	**7**	**Florida International**	*
O.	**21**	**at Arkansas State**	*
O.	**28**	**at Troy**	*
N.	4	Louisiana Tech	L
N.	11	at UL Lafayette	L
N.	18	Florida Atlantic	W
N.	**25**	**at UL Monroe**	*

*Games in **bold** represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

North Texas SID

NORTH TEXAS mean green

National Forecast 110 | **Sun Belt Prediction 4th**

Last season North Texas wallowed in uncharted territory, finishing last in a league it had ruled since its inception in 2001. Now that the competition has exacted its revenge, the Mean Green will try to reassert itself as the kingpin of the Sun Belt Conference.

There is no denying that last year's shortcomings were directly attributable to inexperience and injuries. North Texas lost five SBC games by a total of 21 points.

But this season there are 15 healthy starters returning, plus Jamario Thomas. The nation's leading rusher as a freshman, Thomas will be back at full strength after being slowed by a hamstring in '05.

The offensive line has grown up, the quarterback is battle-tested and the top receiver is an all-conference performer. The defense switches to a 3-4 to take advantage of a gifted corps of linebackers.

Quarterbacks Daniel Meager started every game last year, but his efficiency rating was a meager 87.74. He threw for 941 yards and had more interceptions (eight) than touchdowns (four). As the season progressed, so did backup Matt Phillips, who threw for 448 yards, four TDs and five INTs. Now sophomores, Meager and Phillips head into the fall in a virtual dead-heat for the starting assignment, with the incumbent (Meager) holding a precarious edge on the 2-deep.

Junior college transfer Woody Wilson, who is adept at throwing and running, was on hand for spring drills and could make it a three-man race come August.

Running Backs Here's something you don't see every day — a team that replaces its career-rushing leader with a national rushing champion. But that's what is happening, as Thomas steps in for Patrick Cobbs. When Cobbs was sidelined with an injury in 2004, Thomas filled in to lead the nation in rushing as a true freshman. Their roles were reversed last year as Cobbs handled the bulk of the duty while Thomas nursed a gimpy hammy. Thomas saw limited action in eight games and managed only 361 yards, 1,440 fewer than he amassed as a rookie. North Texas needs Thomas to return to form.

Deavin Cox, a former all-state running back and converted defensive back, is being groomed as a backup, just in case.

Receivers In Johnny Quinn, North Texas has a receiver who is as dependable as they come. A two-time all-conference selection, Quinn ranks second in Division I-A with at least one catch in 36 consecutive games. At his current pace he will end the season as UNT's career receiving leader in every category.

Add Zach Muzzy, Joel Nwigwe and Brandon Jackson to the mix and the Mean Green boasts its best receiving corps of coach Darrell Dickey's tenure.

Tight ends Robert Harmon and Beau Davidson are primarily blockers.

Offensive Linemen Last year the offensive line was a weak link. In 2006 it could very well be responsible for recovering those 26 points that were the difference between finishing last and first in the Sun Belt.

With four starters returning it is unlikely the unit will allow 21 sacks as it did in 2005. The right side, where first team all-conference guard Dylan Lineberry and tackle Joel Foster have been starters for two years, is particularly stout. Chad Rose returns at center, where he started every game last year as a redshirt freshman. The left side is not quite as formidable.

NUMBERS GAME

26 In spite of its 2–5 conference record, North Texas finished only 26 points shy of winning its fifth straight Sun Belt title in 2005.

Defensive Linemen After allowing more than 2,400 yards rushing, the D-line is undergoing a makeover. A 3-4 alignment has been installed, but thanks to injuries, questions loom. Sky Pruitt is slated to start inside. Jeremiah Chapman, one of only two returning all-conference defensive linemen and the team's best pass rusher, skipped spring practice while recovering from ankle surgery. A healthy Montey Stevenson is listed as a starter opposite Chapman.

Linebackers There are more linebackers with starting experience than there are positions. The top returnees are Phillip Graves, Maurice Holman, who started outside in '05, and Derek Mendoza, who started seven games in the middle. Shawn Early and Brandon Monroe, starters in 2004 who missed all (Early) and most (Monroe) of last season with injuries, will be back in the fall.

Defensive Backs Strong safety Aaron Weathers, the Sun Belt's Newcomer of the Year in 2005, is the best player in an untested secondary. Part-time starter Steve Warren returns at free safety. Dominique Green and Desmond Chatman were first-team corners in the spring, but that could change by fall.

Specialists Kickoff specialist Denis Hopovac will take on the placekicking job vacated by Nick Bazaldua, UNT's all-time scoring leader. Truman Spencer is back after dropping 16 punts inside the 20. The sure-handed Quinn will return punts and kickoffs.

THE BACK PAGE

Here it is — the season at a glance. We've projected this year's records for all 119 Division I-A teams, although we've hedged our bets again with the "swing game" designation (the third number in each record). Worth noting: The lowest-ranked team without a sure loss is Toledo at No. 53. The highest-ranked team without a sure win: Air Force, at No. 91.

TOP 25

1.	OKLAHOMA	11–0–1
2.	NOTRE DAME	10–0–2
3.	USC	10–0–2
4.	OHIO STATE	10–0–2
5.	FLORIDA	8–0–4
6.	WEST VIRGINIA	11–0–1
7.	TEXAS	10–0–2
8.	CALIFORNIA	10–0–2
9.	AUBURN	9–0–3
10.	LOUISVILLE	10–0–2
11.	LSU	9–0–3
12.	CLEMSON	10–0–2
13.	MICHIGAN	9–0–3
14.	MIAMI	9–0–3
15.	GEORGIA	9–0–3
16.	IOWA	9–1–2
17.	FLORIDA STATE	9–0–3
18.	TCU	10–0–2
19.	OREGON	7–3–2
20.	TENNESSEE	5–1–6
21.	VIRGINIA TECH	9–0–3
22.	TEXAS TECH	8–2–2
23.	UTAH	8–0–4
24.	ARIZONA STATE	7–2–3
25.	NEBRASKA	9–2–1

26.	WISCONSIN	8–1–3
27.	BOISE STATE	10–0–2
28.	SOUTH CAROLINA	6–4–2
29.	UCLA	6–3–3
30.	ARKANSAS	6–3–3
31.	PURDUE	8–2–3
32.	GEORGIA TECH	7–4–1
33.	TEXAS A&M	7–2–3
34.	ALABAMA	7–3–2
35.	PENN STATE	6–3–3
36.	BOSTON COLLEGE	6–4–2
37.	BYU	8–1–3
38.	RUTGERS	6–2–4
39.	FRESNO STATE	9–2–1
40.	ARIZONA	4–5–3
41.	WAKE FOREST	6–3–3
42.	NAVY	8–1–3
43.	MICHIGAN STATE	4–3–5
44.	UTEP	8–1–3
45.	UCF	8–1–3
46.	KANSAS	6–1–5
47.	IOWA STATE	3–5–4
48.	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	8–2–2
49.	PITTSBURGH	5–2–5
50.	MISSOURI	5–4–3
51.	NORTH CAROLINA	2–5–5
52.	COLORADO	3–5–4
53.	TOLEDO	8–0–4
54.	TULSA	6–1–5
55.	SAN DIEGO STATE	6–4–2
56.	NORTHWESTERN	4–6–2
57.	SOUTH FLORIDA	4–3–5
58.	MINNESOTA	4–7–1
59.	MARYLAND	3–6–3
60.	SOUTHERN MISS	5–3–4
61.	WASHINGTON STATE	2–7–3
62.	OREGON STATE	3–6–4
63.	COLORADO STATE	6–4–2
64.	HOUSTON	6–1–5
65.	HAWAII	7–4–2
66.	NC STATE	2–5–5
67.	OLE MISS	1–7–4
68.	EAST CAROLINA	4–3–5
69.	CONNECTICUT	4–6–2
70.	VIRGINIA	3–5–4
71.	BAYLOR	2–8–2
72.	KENTUCKY	3–6–3

73.	KANSAS STATE	3–7–2
74.	STANFORD	1–7–4
75.	VANDERBILT	3–7–2
76.	MIAMI OH	7–1–4
77.	MEMPHIS	3–5–4
78.	INDIANA	3–7–2
79.	NEW MEXICO	3–7–2
80.	NEVADA	4–5–3
81.	OKLAHOMA STATE	3–7–2
82.	MISSISSIPPI STATE	3–7–2
83.	WASHINGTON	1–9–2
84.	WYOMING	1–7–4
85.	SMU	5–5–2
86.	MARSHALL	2–7–3
87.	LOUISIANA TECH	6–6–1
88.	AKRON	5–3–4
89.	ILLINOIS	2–8–2
90.	CINCINNATI	1–8–3
91.	AIR FORCE	0–8–4
92.	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	5–5–2
93.	SYRACUSE	0–9–3
94.	UAB	1–9–2
95.	UNLV	1–8–3
96.	BALL STATE	4–6–2
97.	TULANE	0–9–3
98.	DUKE	0–11–1
99.	UL LAFAYETTE	8–3–1
100.	OHIO	3–4–4
101.	WESTERN MICHIGAN	2–7–3
102.	ARMY	2–6–4
103.	BOWLING GREEN	4–6–2
104.	RICE	0–9–3
105.	ARKANSAS STATE	3–4–5
106.	UTAH STATE	0–9–3
107.	EASTERN MICHIGAN	1–8–3
108.	TROY	2–5–5
109.	IDAHO	1–8–3
110.	NORTH TEXAS	1–6–5
111.	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	3–5–4
112.	SAN JOSE STATE	1–8–3
113.	NEW MEXICO STATE	2–7–3
114.	KENT STATE	0–10–2
115.	FLA. INTERNATIONAL	0–7–5
116.	UL MONROE	1–7–4
117.	BUFFALO	0–10–2
118.	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	0–9–2
119.	TEMPLE	0–10–2

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